

Members vote down Spirit contract economic opener



WICHITA, KS – Engineers, technical and professional workers at Spirit AeroSystems today (July 31) voted to reject an economic opener contract offer for the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), IFPTE Local 2001.

In the Wichita Technical and Professional Unit (WTPU) vote, 80 percent of members were against the offer and 20 percent voted in favor.

In the Wichita Engineering Unit (WEU) vote, 77 percent of members voted to reject, and 23 percent voted for it.

In a separate ‘advisory’ ballot cast by non-members to send a message to the company, 100% voted against the offer.

“This vote is a rejection of Spirit management’s refusal to share the profits of the company with the employees who make it profitable,” said Ray Goforth, SPEEA executive director. “This casts a dark cloud on the future of Spirit.”

By voting against the economic opener, the members elected to keep their current contract’s compensation and benefit package, locking in guaranteed wage increases and medical premiums at the current rates, until their contracts expire.

Takeaways proposed by the company:

- Reductions in merit pools
- Bonus payouts that were not equal to non-represented salaried employees
- Increases in medical premium contributions

“The company made promises to the SPEEA negotiation teams and employees about having one company and one plan,” said BJ Moore, SPEEA contract administrator. “Those promises were broken.”

The medical plan increases of 2 percent in the offer did not go over well with members, either. By voting no, represented employees keep the 10 percent cap in their current contract, while Spirit plans to raise premiums for non-represented employees.

SPEEA represents 3,859 professional aerospace employees in Wichita, including 704 engineers at The Boeing Company. Overall, the union represents 24,444 aerospace employees at Spirit, Boeing, Triumph Composite Systems and BAE Systems in Kansas, Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, and Utah.

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Contacts: Ray Goforth, Executive Director, (316) 682-0262
BJ Moore, SPEEA Midwest Contract Administrator, (316) 682-0262