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David Westin
President
ABC News
ABC World News
47 W. 66th Street
New York, NY 10023

By email and mail

May 22, 2010

Dear Mr. Westin:

I am writing to express my serious concerns with an ABC's World News segment aired on May 21, entitled: "A \$3 Billion Government Boondoggle?" and with a companion on-line article.

Reporter Brian Ross's segment was biased and inaccurate. If my objections were limited to Mr. Ross's editorializing that the GE/Rolls Royce engine for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) was a "pork barrel project" and "government boondoggle," I would not have written this letter. But because Mr. Ross reported falsehoods and omitted important information provided to him, I felt I had an obligation to write to you to express my concerns.

Below I have listed what Mr. Ross inaccurately or incompletely reported:

- The report falsely claimed that the GE-Rolls Royce engine "lost out in the initial Pentagon competition" to be the engine supplier. As recently as May 19, during a House Subcommittee hearing, John Roth, Deputy Comptroller, Program/Budget for the Department of Defense, stated that there was never an engine competition for the JSF. This information was provided to Mr. Ross and his colleague, Matthew Mosk.
- Mr. Ross failed to cite an independent Government Accountability Office's (GAO) conclusion that the cost benefit to taxpayers from a JSF engine competition will translate into \$20 billion in savings over the lifespan of the JSF. GAO told Congress in 2009 that: "we remain confident that competitive pressures could yield enough savings to offset the costs of competition over the JSF program's life." This information was provided to Mr. Ross and Mr. Mosk.
- Mr. Ross failed to report that a decades-long engine competition need only generate a 1-to-2 percent cost benefit to recoup the remaining dollars needed to complete the GE-Rolls Royce engine. Without the competing engine, a sole-source monopoly will be handed to a single contractor, Pratt & Whitney, which already has \$2.6 billion in cost overruns on its JSF engine. These cost overruns also run counter to Mr. Ross's comment that the Pentagon is "happy"

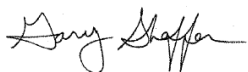
with Pratt & Whitney's performance. This information was provided to Mr. Ross and Mr. Mosk.

- The report incorrectly claimed the government would need to spend \$3 billion more on the GE/Rolls Royce engine. In fact, \$1 billion is needed to complete development of the GE-Rolls Royce engine. Your report also left out the fact that the development of our engine is more than 70 percent complete. In fact, the engine will fly on the JSF aircraft next year and will be poised to compete head-to-head with Pratt & Whitney's engine. This information was provided to Mr. Ross and Mr. Mosk.

ABC News has a long and proud journalistic tradition but these stories were a departure from that tradition. You did a grave disservice to your viewers and to the GE/Rolls Royce employees working hard to provide the military with reliable and cost-effective engines.

Thanks for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Sheffer".

Gary Sheffer

cc: Brian Ross
Matthew Mosk