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Aerospace spotlights lawmakers

By showing voting records

By RUSS BRITT
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LOS ANGELES — A coalition of community and business leaders is targeting California lawmakers as part of an effort to keep aerospace firms from leaving the state, the group's organizers said.

Californians for Aerospace Leadership plans to take out full-page ads in newspapers throughout the state to publish voting records of elected officials on industry-related issues, the group said Thursday.

Coalition members are looking to stem the loss of aerospace jobs, which have been cut by 60,000 statewide since 1986.

"To date, all transgressions are forgiven," said Ron Cedillos, who heads the coalition and is president of Cedillos Testing Inc., a Long Beach-based tester of aerospace components.

Moving elsewhere

Support for Pentagon programs among California's congressional contingent has been sporadic and military procurement officers are increasingly inclined to build weapons elsewhere, Cedillos said.

One example is the awarding of the \$95 billion Advanced Tactical Fighter contract in April to a team led by Calabasas-based Lockheed Corp. Lockheed plans to build the plane in Marietta, Ga., home state of the Senate Armed Services

'To date, all transgressions are forgiven. As of this date, we will begin monitoring and publishing their voting records.'

—Ron Cedillos

Committee chairman, Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn.

A competing team led by Los Angeles-based Northrop Corp. in Los Angeles would have built much of the plane in Southern California.

Key projects

Congressional votes will be watched on such key projects as the \$65 billion B-2 stealth bomber program, Cedillos said. The program would mean 41,000 jobs at Northrop, builder of the radar-evading plane, and other subcontractors throughout the state, he said.

Some members of California's congressional delegation questioned the coalition's methods.

"I will never support a weapon because it's made in Califor-

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nia. I will support it because we need it. If we need it, I will fight for California's fair share," said U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer, D-San Francisco, who has come out against the B-2.

Boxer was one representative Cedillos mentioned by name Thursday as being potentially unfriendly to the coalition's cause. Calling the effort a partisan attack, Boxer said the coalition should be looking at ways to diversify the industry.

The coalition includes leaders of industry, business associations and volunteer organizations. It has the backing of California Gov. Pete Wilson.