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Latest Developments

Boeing Complains of Misstatements by NLRB, Denies 'Transferring' Work to South Carolina

Posted May 4, 2011, 5:02 P.M. ET

Boeing Co.'s top lawyer, Executive Vice President and General Counsel J. Michael Luttig, charged in a May 3 [letter](#) that National Labor Relations Board Acting General Counsel Lafe E. Solomon and NLRB officials have mischaracterized the company's decision to build some of its 787 Dreamliner airplanes in South Carolina as an unlawful "transfer" of work performed by Washington state employees represented by the International Association of Machinists.

Solomon authorized an April 20 complaint alleging that Boeing illegally transferred some of the planned assembly of its Dreamliners to South Carolina because employees at Boeing's Puget Sound facilities supported lawful IAM strikes against the company (77 DLR AA-1, 4/21/11).

But Luttig argued in a letter to the acting general counsel that South Carolina workers will be handling only "new work" needed to meet "historic demand" for the jetliner, which has not yet gone into production.

Asserting that "no work—none at all—was 'removed' or 'transferred' from Puget Sound," the Boeing lawyer insisted that the company's creation of jobs in South Carolina has not adversely affected any union-represented employee. He argued that the NLRB complaint mischaracterized statements by Boeing officials in support of its allegation that the company's building a second assembly line in South Carolina was improperly motivated by the lawful union activity of its Puget Sound employees.

A full report will appear in the next issue of Daily Labor Report. Click [here](#) for the latest issue.

Solis Touts FY 2012 Budget Request Before Senate Subcommittee Hearing

Posted May 4, 2011, 5:19 P.M. ET

The administration's fiscal year 2012 budget request for the Labor Department would provide targeted investments to help place workers in jobs, prepare workers with job skills, and

ensure an equitable labor market for firms and workers, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis told a Senate panel today.

Speaking before a Senate Appropriations Committee's subcommittee, Solis told lawmakers that proposed \$12.8 billion in discretionary funding would achieve the goal of "good jobs for everyone."

Ranking member Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) criticized the administration's request that cuts discretionary spending by 5 percent compared to FY 2010 levels.

"While the Department of Labor should be recognized for cutting spending, a feat not accomplished by every department in FY 2012, I do not believe a 5 percent reduction within the Department of Labor goes far enough," Shelby said. "In this difficult economic environment, we need to cut spending today."

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Many Workers Use Social Networking Sites in Job Hunt

Posted May 4, 2011, 5:04 P.M. ET

Although just 1 percent of U.S. workers found their latest jobs through social media websites, 22 percent are using such sites in their job hunt, according to survey [results](#) released today by Kelly Services.

At the same time, many workers are apprehensive about potential career fallout from personal content on social networking sites and report that their employers have policies restricting their use at work, the Troy, Mich.-based temporary staffing and consulting firm said.

"There is no doubt that social networking has fundamentally changed the way people search for work and exchange information about career opportunities," Michael Webster, executive vice president and general manager of Kelly Services, said.

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Expansion in Services Sector Weakened in April

Posted May 4, 2011, 3:26 P.M. ET

Overall economic activity in service-providing industries expanded in April but at a slower pace than in the prior month, the Institute for Supply Management [said](#) today.

ISM's index of activity in the nonmanufacturing sector declined to 52.8 percent seasonally adjusted, down 4.5 percentage points from 57.3 percent in March and the lowest reading since August 2010, the Tempe, Ariz.-based research group said. Overall, the services sector, which accounts for about two-thirds of the U.S. economy, continued to grow last month for the 17th consecutive month.

Anthony Nieves, chair of ISM's nonmanufacturing survey committee, said comments from purchasing and supply managers surveyed in April showed that they "are mixed about overall business conditions" but "are mostly positive." At the same time, they expressed

concerns about rising fuel and other commodity costs and "the lingering uncertainty about the economy," he said.

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