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Quad Cities group seeks Boeing project

Officials ask Iowa, Illinois leaders to bid for proposed plant that would bring 8,500 jobs

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In this undated artist's concept provided by the Boeing Co. is the aerospace company's new family of 777X jetliners, the 777-9X, top, and 777-8X. / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Written by [Matthew Patane](#)

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Officials in the Quad Cities are asking the leaders of Iowa and Illinois to make a bid for a proposed Boeing manufacturing plant that would bring about 8,500 jobs to the area.

The Bi-State Regional Commission, a regional planning and economic development group for the Quad Cities, sent letters to Govs. Terry Branstad of Iowa and Pat Quinn of Illinois on Monday. The letter asks the two governors to cooperate in bidding for the Boeing plant.

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“As the Mayors and County Board Chairs of a bi-state region with exceptional manufacturing and logistics resources, we ask you both to do something extraordinary; we ask that you work together to submit a bi-state proposal to Boeing,” the letter reads.

The letter lists multiple assets that favor the region for the Boeing plant. Among them are “two airports, rail water and interstate transportation along with the economic development toolboxes of two states, two counties and five cities.”

The Davenport presence of aluminum producer Alcoa, a Boeing supplier, is also listed as a benefit.

Mark Hunt, the commission’s economic development director, said the commission and the cities have thought about how well an aircraft manufacturer would fit in in the region.

“It’s not the first time we’ve thought about this ... but now Boeing is making its move,” Hunt said. “Now there’s an opportunity and we’re making our case.”

Hunt said the commission has not received a response from either governor yet and would not expect to due to the holidays.

The letter was signed by Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba, Bettendorf Mayor Bob Gallagher, Rock Island, Ill. Mayor Dennis Pauley, Moline, Ill. Mayor Scott Raes, East Moline, Ill. Mayor John Thodos, Rock Island County Board Chairman Phillip Banaszek and Scott County Board Chairman Larry Minard.

The letter was written by Davenport City Administrator Craig Malin.

The proposed plant would be used to manufacture Boeing’s new 777X airliner. The Seattle-based aircraft manufacturer started accepting bids from states earlier this year and has begun eliminating some from its list of potential sites.

The opportunity to bring the large plant and thousands of jobs has prompted states to propose offering large financial incentives. State lawmakers in Missouri, for example, held a special legislative session earlier this year to work out an incentive package. They eventually approved a \$1.7 billion package to try to entice Boeing to build in Missouri.

Tina Hoffman, a spokeswoman for the Iowa Economic Development Authority, said Iowa has not submitted any applications for the Boeing facility.



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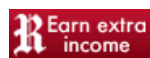
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