

LARSON STATEMENT ON MARINE ONE DECISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 28, 2005

LARSON STATEMENT ON MARINE ONE DECISION

HARTFORD- U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1) today gave the following statement on the decision of the Defense Department to award the contract for the Marine One Presidential Helicopter to a consortium that includes a foreign company, instead of the Connecticut-based American manufacturer, Sikorsky.

Clearly this is a great disappointment for the state and an embarrassment for the nation, said Larson. Sikorsky has been producing the Marine One presidential helicopter fleet since the Eisenhower administration and now future presidents will be flying in a helicopter made in part by a foreign company. Today's decision is not just about one contract for one kind of aircraft. It is a symptom of a more serious illness, which is the European Union's effort to overtake the U.S. in the aerospace and aviation market, resulting in a loss of U.S. jobs and American work being sent overseas. The fact the decision to award this contract to a consortium that includes a European company was made by our own Defense Department is a slap in the face to Connecticut and American aerospace workers.

###