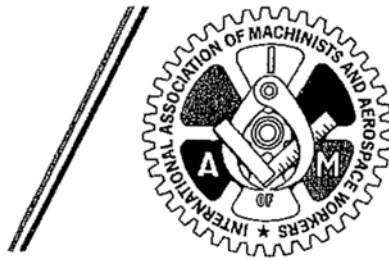


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

GL 2 – Legislative

July 15, 2003

Subject: DOD Authorization

Via Facsimile: 202-228-0037

The Honorable John Warner, Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
228 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I urge you to strongly support in conference on the FY04 Defense Authorization Bill the House Armed Services Committee initiative to strengthen the U.S. defense industrial base by requiring critical defense systems and components to be manufactured in the United States. The International Association of Machinists (IAM) is the largest representative of workers in the defense related industry in the United States. Maintaining our defense industrial base is important to keeping and creating defense manufacturing jobs here in our country.

Since the end of World War II, the U.S. has provided the umbrella of defense for the free world and our allies. The military superiority of the United States has depended upon the strength of the U.S. defense industrial base. This base has been severely weakened over the years by the Department of Defense and major defense contractors contracting more and more of the manufacture of critical defense systems and components overseas. This practice has driven many defense manufacturing firms out of business and is rendering the U.S. dependent upon foreign industries for the defense of the United States.

The individual American taxpayer pays for the defense of the United States. When defense systems and components are manufactured in the United States, the tax paying companies and their skilled workforce are sustained to provide additional revenue to the U.S. Treasury to help defray the cost of investment in our national defense. However, this country has lost more than 2 million manufacturing jobs since 1998, with many of these losses from the defense industry. Through various agreements with foreign governments for reciprocal defense procurement, we have seen our defense contracts and jobs going to foreign sources – stimulating job creation and the economies of foreign nation's rather than our own.

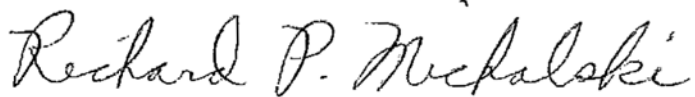
The Honorable John Warner, Chairman  
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Chairman Duncan Hunter's initiative to require that DOD contract with companies located in the United States for the manufacture of critical defense systems and components is needed to ensure the security of every American. The war in Iraq demonstrated that the U.S. cannot depend on foreign sources and foreign governments to defend the security interests of the United States. Today's ally may not be tomorrow's.

Your efforts to ensure that the Senate adopts the House industrial base provisions in conference are requested.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact me, at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Michalski  
Director  
Legislative and Political Action Department

RPM/jcs