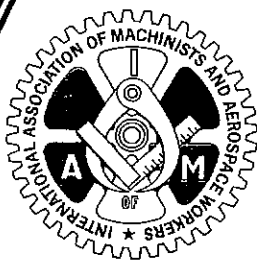


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

September 29, 2000

Subject: Department of Defense

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers is opposed to proposed changes being pushed within the Department of Defense which would weaken the content requirements for more defense products.

This proposed legislation makes a mockery of prudent content laws designed to maintain a strong defense industrial base, while also creating thousands of highly skilled, good paying jobs in the United States. The Secretary of Defense should not be given the authority to waive our domestic manufacture and content laws even if component is produced by one of our allies.

The Department claims it needs to send more of our members' work overseas to meet the offset demands of other countries. Whether in aerospace, shipping, or U.S. areas of the defense industry, these offset policies continue to skim some of the best and most skilled jobs off the market and ship them overseas. The IAM does not support or condone these practices, and believes that they result in a weakening of our national security. The Department of Commerce agrees and has reported that offset policies have an adverse impact on this country's defense industrial base.

The IAM asks you not to sacrifice our members' jobs as offsets, and encourage you to direct the Department of Defense to do away with this damaging proposal. If you have any questions, please contact Richard Michalski, Director, Legislative Political Action Department, at 301-967-4575.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

RTB/jcs

cc: William S. Cohen
Secretary of Defense

John D. Podesta
Chief of Staff to the President

Karen A. Tramontano
Assistant to the President