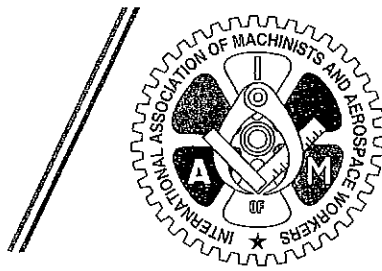


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



GL-2 Legislative

July 30, 2003

The Honorable Russell D. Feingold
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-4904

Dear Senator Feingold:

The International Association of Machinists (IAM) strongly supports "Buy American" legislation to strengthen laws that preserve our country's industrial defense base. By raising the domestic content level to 75%, your legislation will protect American jobs and America's defense.

"Buy American" laws currently require only 50% domestic content. This year, however, the Defense Department implemented blanket waivers to further decrease the amount. These tactics, compounded by offset agreements and content manipulation, have greatly contributed to the decline of our domestic defense production. The American defense industry has been dealt two serious setbacks by this Administration: diminished resources and the loss of high skilled technology jobs.

This legislation must be passed to stop the erosion of our industrial base and blind reliance on other countries' resources to defend America.

The IAM appreciates your leadership in this area and looks forward to working with you. Please call me at 301-967-4575 to further discuss this important issue.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Michalski
Director
Legislative and Political Action Department

RPM/mmp