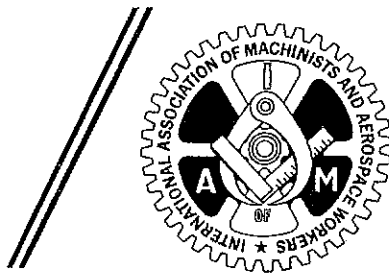


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

September 17, 1999

GL2 - Legislative

Subject: DoD Appropriations

Dear Senator:

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) represents over 700,000 workers, many of which are employed in occupations related to the defense of our country. The IAM supports many provisions contained in HR2561, the Defense Appropriations Act. In particular we support funding levels contained in the House bill for eight F-15, fifteen F-16, eight tanker versions of C-130 aircraft.

However, the IAM is concerned over the deep cuts in the F-22 fighter program that have been included in House bill HR2561. The funding must be continued for this vital program to ensure our leadership in air superiority. Full funding of the F-22 program provides high-skill good paying jobs for thousands of Americans whose livelihoods are directly or indirectly linked to this program.

The IAM is urging your support in restoring funding for the F-22 that was removed in the House version of the FY00 Defense Appropriations Act, and maintaining the House levels of funding for the other aircraft mentioned above. Please contact IAM Legislative Director Rich Michalski at (301) 967-4575 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

RTB/jcs