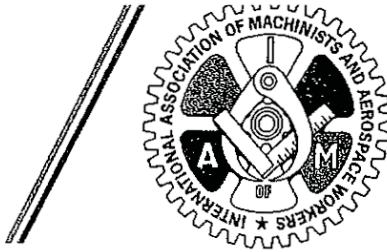


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

GL 2 – Legislative

February 21, 2001

Subject: F-16

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0505

Dear Senator Boxer:

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) represents over 500,000 members more than 160,000 within the aerospace industry. IAM members produce and assemble the F-16. IAM members also manufacture parts and components needed for the F-16 and other defense related products. The IAM strongly disagrees with the letter you signed and sent to President Bush opposing the sale of the F-16 product made by our members. We ask you to not oppose the sale of this product to Chile. The ban on these sales has been lifted years ago and this sale should be allowed to take place.

Aerospace manufacturing is the largest single industry in terms of the US gross national product. The defense industry must remain strong for this country to maintain defense readiness. Production of the F-16 is indirectly also a national security issue. The IAM members' jobs at stake are particularly good, providing pay and benefit packages not found in other sectors of the workforce. Their jobs, families, and communities depend upon the sale of the F-16 and other defense related products.

Please contact Legislative and Political Director Rich Michalski if you have any questions regarding this matter at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

RTB/jcs