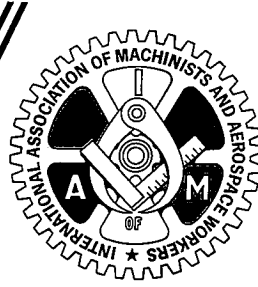


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

GL2 - Legislative

October 16, 2007

Dear Senator,

Last June our members at the Kennedy Space Center who work for the United Space Alliance (USA), a joint venture of Boeing and Lockheed responsible for preparing the Space Shuttle for launch and refurbishing the vehicle between launches, were forced to go on strike to protect long held benefits and pensions.

A NASA contact informed the union that all increases would be taken out of the profits of the contractor. This is in direct conflict with the intent of the Service Contract Act (SCA) which allows for the pass on of reasonable negotiated increases in wages and benefits. Further, the Federal Acquisition Regulation governing the SCA does not permit government interference in any dispute between labor and management, which happened in these negotiations.

**It is clear that USA is a willing partner with NASA in attacking the living standards of its workforce.** USA has set out to gain an economic advantage over other contractors that currently provide pensions by gutting the pension plans of USA employees. While American taxpayers have been asked to invest in NASA as an investment in the future, the management of NASA and USA want to eliminate the future economic stability of its talented and dedicated workforce.

As of October, beyond the numerous cuts in benefits that USA demands, the most significant factor preventing a successful resolution of the strike remains USA's attack on worker pensions. USA insists on eliminating pensions for future employees with the intent of ending pensions for all employees. Negotiations have begun at the Houston Space Center where USA and NASA are also demanding the elimination of pensions.

The IAM presented realistic economic proposals to USA, which are in line with other wage and benefits already being paid at the Kennedy Space Center. Our members have played an instrumental role in the success of our nation's space program since its inception and deserve a collective bargaining agreement that rewards their good work.

**This is the time for Congress to actively question the priorities of NASA.** Will NASA work with its employees to develop and maintain a safe and robust space program that will truly benefit America? Or will NASA, in its zeal to promote a for-profit private contractor, follow the path of other government agencies that have allowed contractors like Halliburton and Blackwater the unchecked ability to line their pockets at taxpayer expense?

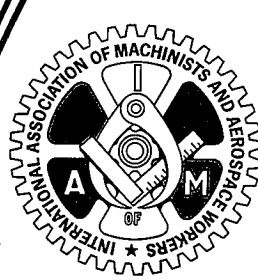
**We ask that you contact NASA and USA and demand that, as taxpayer supported entities, they settle this unnecessary dispute and put economic justice before corporate greed.**

If you have any questions, please contact the IAM's Legislative and Political Action Director Tom Trotter at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger  
International President

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