



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

July 1, 2009

Mr. R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President
International Assoc. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Dear Mr. Buffenbarger & Friends:

Greetings to the members and guests of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers on the occasion of the Quadrennial Installation of your Constitutional Officials. Congratulations to all the newly elected officials. The membership is fortunate to have this strong leadership team.

Friends, I am always grateful for your dedication and hard work on behalf of working men and women across the nation. You know I wear the union label proudly on my clothes, on my heart and on the floor of the U. S. Senate. We are on a historic journey to change the direction of this country. We have begun to restore America's standing in the world. We have enacted a sweeping stimulus package that will retain and create 3.5M jobs with good wages, give 95% of Americans an immediate tax cut and invest in much needed physical, technological, knowledge-based and community infrastructure.

You know that I signed on again as an original co-sponsor of the *Employee Free Choice Act*. The right to organize has been severely compromised in recent years and we must turn the tide. The *Employee Free Choice Act* makes it easier to unionize without employer coercion. We've fought too long and too hard to see this bill go down. We will work together, harder than ever, to get it over the finish line.

Finally – health care reform! We know costs are soaring for your families. I strongly believe that ensuring quality throughout the health care system saves lives and saves money. While we need to work toward providing universal access, my goal is high-quality health care that is sensible, achievable and affordable.

So, the battle is enjoined. This is not about the past. It's not only about the present. It is about the future - our future. Thank you for all you do to keep the dream of America alive for all our children.

In solidarity,

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator