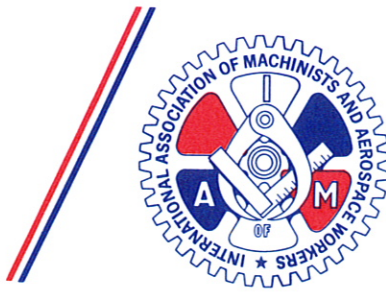


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

November 30, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

American workers need your help. During this painful recession corporate behavior has been at its worst — feeding off our tax dollars, laying off skilled American workers, and shipping defense work to foreign countries. If this were not bad enough, many corporations now use the unemployment crisis to attack the wages and benefits of their remaining workers and to extort economic concessions from state and local governments, further straining a depleted tax base needed to fund essential services.

Unchecked this trend will continue to strip industrial states of the high skill, high paying jobs essential to any economic recovery. Connecticut is just the latest state to be spurned by a major corporation, in this case United Technologies' Pratt and Whitney, using the recession as an excuse to attack the living standards of working families.

I therefore respectfully request your help to keep the Pratt and Whitney jobs in Connecticut.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) has seen this terrible scenario play out at worksites across America: at Mercury Marine in Wisconsin, at Harley Davidson in Pennsylvania, at General Electric in New Mexico, and, at Boeing in Washington where a private company was able to leverage millions in stimulus dollars to facilitate moving jobs to South Carolina. But perhaps the most horrific example was at the Pratt and Whitney division of United Technologies in Connecticut.

In July, Pratt and Whitney management notified our local union representatives that they were planning to shut down the profitable Cheshire Overhaul & Repair facility and the Center for Airfoil Repair (CARO) in East Hartford. Cheshire employs 850 workers and CARO employs about 210. Another 3,000 jobs in Connecticut are tied to the two facilities.

The IAM immediately entered into negotiations with the company in an effort to save these highly skilled jobs and eventually offered more than \$80 million in cost savings, including wage cuts in Cheshire and CARO, a one-year wage freeze for all hourly CT workers, and initiatives that would help increase the profitability of these already profitable operations. Concurrently, the State of Connecticut, with the active

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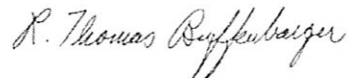
assistance of the entire Congressional delegation, offered an economic package valued at \$100 million over five years.

After going through the motions of pretending to negotiate with the IAM and the State of Connecticut, Pratt and Whitney, a company that has long thrived on government contracts, rejected the combined \$180 million package, preferring instead to close the facilities and layoff the highly skilled and experienced workforce that built the company into a profitable enterprise. If Pratt and Whitney has its way, some of the work will go to a nonunion facility in Georgia and the rest, including critical defense related work, will be shipped overseas to Singapore and Japan.

There is no greater priority facing our nation than restoring economic growth and creating good paying jobs. As our nation endures the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression, millions of American have been left jobless and face a bleak and uncertain future. While the official unemployment rate exceeds 10 percent, millions have given up searching for work, or are stuck in part time jobs.

Mr. President, we need to not only create jobs, but we must also maintain the jobs that we already have, especially those created by our tax dollars. Nor must we use our tax dollars to ship jobs overseas. In these tough times every job matters. We are counting on your determined leadership to make our economy work for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Thomas Buffenbarger".

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President