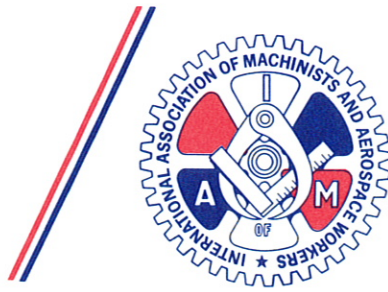


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

January 29, 2010

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of several hundred thousand active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) in response to reports that proposals are being formulated to modify our Nation's current export control policies.

In view of the increasing job crisis facing U.S. workers (over 7 million workers have lost their jobs since December 2007, many in manufacturing) our entire export strategy must be refocused to ensure the creation and maintenance of good jobs here at home. Any modification of export control policy must include a comprehensive review of how those modifications will impact U.S. employment now and in the future.

The failure to consider how modifications of export controls could impact domestic employment could lead to decisions that have a negative effect on U.S. workers. If an export involves the transfer of technology or production, it could negatively impact U.S. workers immediately as U.S. jobs are transferred to another country. The transfer of technology and production can also have long-term consequences as other countries use the transferred technology and production to develop their own industries. Claims made by some that weakening export controls will lead to job creation should be met with healthy skepticism. Many of those who make this claim represent corporations that have developed (or that would like to develop) industrial capacity in the very same countries that would benefit from weakened export controls.

While current export controls are in need of reform, we must be mindful that policies that encourage or facilitate further outsourcing of technology (especially

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technology funded by U.S. taxpayers) and production can and do have a detrimental impact on U.S. workers and will impede our Nation's recovery. As you proceed in your review of export controls, we urge you to adopt policies that will, in fact, result in greater job opportunities for our domestic workforce now and well into the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "R. Thomas Buffenbarger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Buffenbarger" clearly legible.

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

RTB:cep

cc: The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State
The Honorable Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Gary Locke, Secretary of Commerce
The Honorable Hilda Solis, Secretary of Labor
The Honorable Ron Kirk, United States Trade Representative
Speaker Nancy Pelosi
Senator Harry Reid
Senator Tom Harkin
Congressman Howard Berman
Congressman George Miller
Congressman Brad Sherman