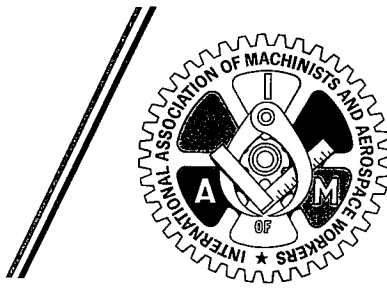


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

March 1, 2010

Dear Representative,

Manufacturing has been crucial to the creation of wealth and the economic success of our nation. As the U.S. struggles to recover from the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression, our efforts are undercut by the loss of over 5.5 million American manufacturing jobs in the last decade. While there are many reasons for this job loss, chief among them has been the implementation of a cheap labor trade policy that expedites the shift of value added manufacturing to areas of the global with low wages, human rights abuses, and lax environmental enforcement.

The premier example of this model of cheap labor globalization has been the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Touted as the key to raising North American living standards, NAFTA has had the opposite effect as multinational corporations have shifted to production to Mexico where wages are low, worker rights nearly nonexistent, and little regard is paid to the environment.

The Machinists Union has witnessed this movement first hand. Maytag shut down its Galesburg, Illinois plant, laid off 1,600 workers, and moved the work to Reynosa, Mexico. Whirlpool is currently doing the same to a thousand workers in Evansville, Indiana. High skilled aerospace jobs are also moving to Mexico; Hawker Beechcraft in Kansas recently announced the shift of 250 good paying jobs to Mexico, joining Bombardier and Triumph Composite Systems.

For the workers whose jobs have not yet moved, the threat at the bargaining table is always the same; take less in wages and benefits or the work will move south of the border. Consequently, the U.S. currently suffers from the worst polarization of wealth since the 1920s and the dream of a middle class life slips further away for more and more Americans.

Fortunately, something can be done to end this grave injustice. Congressman Gene Taylor will soon be introducing a bill withdrawing the U.S. from NAFTA. While much more needs to be done to correct our failed trade policies, this bill marks an important step towards a new day in trade, one that will finally benefit working families and not just multinational corporations. **This bill has already generated bipartisan support and I urge you to become a cosponsor of this critical legislation.** To do so, please contact Brian Martin in Congressman Taylor's office at 225-5772.

Page 2  
March 1, 2010

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative and Political Director Matthew McKinnon at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Thomas Buffenbarger". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

R. Thomas Buffenbarger  
International President