

# IAM Journal

For Fighting Machinists



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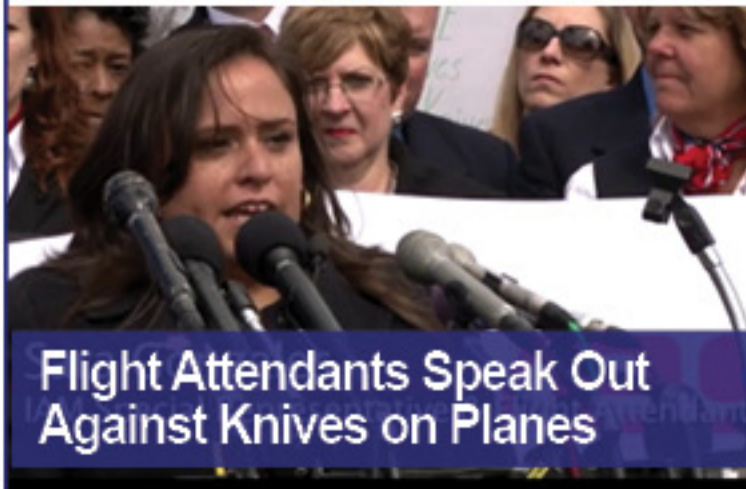
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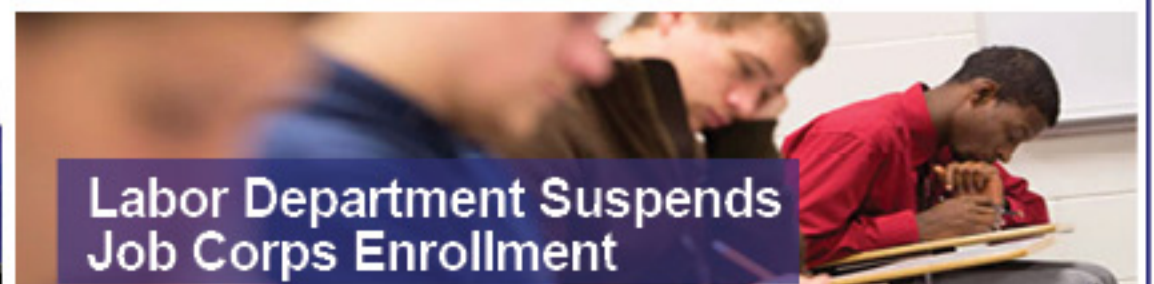
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Photo by AP/WideWorld

# IAM Ready to Help President Obama Rebuild America's Middle Class



*President Barack Obama laid out an ambitious second-term agenda to rebuild America's middle class, manufacturing base and infrastructure in his State of the Union address.*

The IAM stands ready to assist the White House in carrying out its progressive agenda of creating jobs, a thriving middle class, a renewed manufacturing sector, strong infrastructure, equal pay, tax reform and fair voting rights, says IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger.

“The president, during his fifth State of the Union address, talked a lot about

‘prosperity,’” Buffenbarger said. “Americans have been waiting for such a clarion call.”

“The greatest nation on earth cannot keep conducting its business by drifting from one manufactured crisis to the next,” said President Barack Obama. “Stronger families. Stronger communities. A stronger America. It is this kind of prosperity – broad, shared, and built



on a thriving middle class – that has always been the source of our progress at home.”

The president’s four-year agenda calls for a “Made in America” revolution. This, he says, is key to reigniting the economy and middle class.

“Our first priority is making America a magnet for new jobs and manufacturing,” said the president. “After shedding jobs for more than 10 years, our manufacturers have added about 500,000 jobs over the past three years. There are things we can do, right now, to accelerate this trend.”

President Obama is calling for a highly-trained workforce, investments in new research and clean energy, as well as much-needed improvements to our nation’s infrastructure.

“Ask any CEO where they’d rather locate and hire: a country with deteriorating roads and bridges, or one with high-speed rail and internet; high-tech schools and self-healing power grids,” said the president.

He’s proposing a “Fix-It-First” program to put Americans to work as soon as possible on the country’s most urgent repairs, like the nearly 70,000 structurally-deficient bridges located



*President Barack Obama’s second-term agenda includes a “Made in America” initiative to reignite America’s economy and create jobs.*

around the nation. And to make sure the entire burden is not placed on taxpayers, the president is also proposing a “Partnership to Rebuild America” plan which attracts private capital to upgrade what businesses need most: modern ports to move U.S. goods, new pipelines to withstand a storm, and state-of-the-art schools.

“The time has come for America to re-hang its ‘Open for Business’ sign on the front door,” says Buffenbarger. “And the Machinists Union stands ready to help our nation’s president make it happen.”



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# Sequester Cuts Start to Take Toll on Economy and Jobs



*Budget cuts from sequestration means tens of thousands of children will lose access to Head Start education programs across the country.*

Millions of Americans are starting to feel the effects of sequestration as the \$85 billion across-the-board spending cuts ripple across the country. But, economists warn, it's only the beginning. More job loss, lower economic activity, reduced services, lower unemployment benefits and other pain is still to come.

Even worse, the hope that sequestration would be a short-term crisis dimmed when Congress cemented the \$85 billion in cuts, with some new exceptions, into law until next September with passage

of a new continuing resolution to avert a government shutdown on March 27.

Federal workers have had their three-year pay freeze extended until the end of 2013 and thousands of workers have been notified that their hours – and their pay – are being cut. The Defense Department's nearly 800,000 civilian employees will be required to take one furlough day per week. Approximately 47,200 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) workers will be required to take up to 11 days of unpaid leave. And the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has told its employees to expect as many as 22 furlough days by the end of the fiscal year. Thousands of other workers in other federal agencies are in the same boat.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is trying to avoid furloughs by "reprogramming" funds and freezing hiring and bonuses. States have begun notifying unemployment claimants to expect smaller checks in their Federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) benefits.

The across-the-board cuts will mean



fewer police, firefighters and teachers.

And while many of sequestration's impacts won't affect education until the next fiscal year, Head Start programs, which provide early education opportunities for lower-income children, have already started reducing their services all across the country.

The effects are not just unique to federal workers and programs. Other workers – including some in the private sector – whose employers have contracts with the government are losing work, too. A study by the Aerospace Industries Association predicts massive job losses in defense-related businesses if federal budget sequestration cuts continue to take effect.

“As predicted, sequestration is slowly rearing its ugly head in the depths of our already-sluggish economy,” said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. “Consumer spending will soon take a hit from furloughed and laid-off workers making less money. And not only are we facing the potential loss of



*Arbitrary budget cuts from sequestration will slow the economy and threaten nearly one million jobs.*

millions of American jobs, but the sequester could soon impede the NLRB's ability to enforce our labor laws.

“The hemorrhaging has indeed begun. But it's not too late. Congress still has time to apply the pressure necessary to jumpstart our economy and block any further damage to middle-class families. But they must act now. The answer to this crisis is jobs – not austerity.”

tap here

***to tell Congress to stop sequestration and avert the debt crisis by creating jobs.***



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# IAM Members Join Effort to Protect Voting Rights Act

It was one year ago when IAM members from around the country joined thousands of other union members, human rights, faith and community activists in a five-day, 52-mile march from Selma to Montgomery, AL, to call attention to modern-day efforts to roll back voting rights during the 2012 presidential election.

Marchers, arms locked, marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where 47 years earlier a group of civil rights activists set off on the same bridge to fight for African Americans' right to vote during the Civil Rights era. They were brutally attacked by state and local law enforcement on a day that became known as "Bloody Sunday."

Public outrage over the attack was key to passage one year later of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, granting minorities the right to vote.

Recently, hundreds gathered once again, this time on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court, as nine



*Tap above to view a video of activists outside the Supreme Court standing in solidarity to support Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, a provision that protects voters from discrimination in states that are historically hostile to minorities.*

justices debated *Shelby County v. Holder*, a hearing to decide whether the "heart and soul" of the 1965 law should be struck down.

At issue is a provision in the law, known as Section 5, which requires certain states, mainly those with a history of racial discrimination, receive federal approval before making changes to voting laws and procedures. Right-wing groups and their



*Thousands of civil rights and labor activists from around the U.S., including a large contingent of LAM members, re-enacted the famous 1965 Selma to Montgomery march. They were protesting attacks on voting rights that are continuing today with a case before the Supreme Court that could roll back key parts of the Voting Rights Act.*

lawyers from Shelby County, AL, presented oral arguments before the court claiming racial discrimination no longer exists in their county, therefore the provision is no longer necessary.

One justice, Antonin Scalia, openly expressed his contempt for the law, describing it as the “perpetuation of racial entitlement” for minority voters.

Civil and labor rights groups call this newest attempt to erode voting rights a concerted effort by Republicans at the state level to suppress the vote of African Americans and other Democratic-minded groups.

“They don’t like the way minority voters are voting,” said Ian Millhiser, Senior Constitutional Policy Analyst for the Center for American Progress. “They’re casting a vote for a candidate who’s more likely to be the left of center, who’s more likely to look out for

not just the interest of minority voters, but to look out for the interest of workers generally.”

“We are not going to let them take from us what our grandparents and parents fought, suffered and died to give us,” said National Action Network President Rev. Al Sharpton to the group of marchers outside the Supreme Court. “Last year they used government voter ID that disproportionately robbed blacks of their right to vote. Last year they used the fact that we were mobilizing ‘Sunday Souls to the Polls’ and stopped it in many of our states. So we’re not talking about something that used to happen. We’re talking about things that are happening right now.”

Labor stood in solidarity with marchers on the steps of the Supreme Court. An injustice to some is an injustice to all, said Diane Babineaux, Chief of Staff

**“We all have a vested interest in this case. The minority vote is at stake here and our civil rights.”**

**Diane Babineaux**  
*IAM Chief of Staff to the International President*

to the International President.

“We all have a vested interest in this case,” said Babineaux. “Not only is the minority right to vote at stake here, but all our civil rights – no matter your color. If the opposition succeeds, what will they come after next?”

“We didn’t come all of this way to let people take our vote away,” said one rally participant.

A final ruling is expected in June.



*From left, Rep. John Lewis, D-GA, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-TX, and Rep. Barbara Lee, D-CA, stand outside the Supreme Court during arguments in the Shelby County, AL, voting rights case.*

tap photo  
to view a video about protecting  
Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.



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# Female Civil Rights Leaders Share Their Stories

Thousands of Americans took matters into their own hands during the civil rights movement, risking their lives to secure the rights of others. While we often remember sacrifices from the likes of Martin Luther King, Jr., or Jesse Jackson, women also played an important role in the fight for equal rights.

Four female members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, or SNCC, spoke at the 2013 AFL-CIO Martin Luther King Observance in Philadelphia. The women were among those profiled in *“Hands on the Freedom Plow,”* a book that chronicles the journey of women in the Civil Rights Movement.

SNCC activists were on the front lines of desegregation and voting rights efforts in the South. They chose to volunteer in southern states with some of the country’s worst civil rights abuses.

“I had thought over every even-



*Tap above to view a video about the important role women played in the Civil Rights Movement.*

tuality and was prepared to face anything,” said SNCC activist Diane Nash. “I had come to a place of strength and peace.”

Some were jailed merely for registering voters – actions that sparked the public outrage that led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

“Incarceration in those mean places was one of the major weapons of oppression held over the heads of



***SNCC activists were on the front lines of desegregation and voting rights efforts in the south. They chose to volunteer in southern states with some of the country's worst civil rights abuses.***



anyone who stood up for their rights,” said SNCC activist Martha Noonan. “Movement activists turned this fear on its head, taking the fangs out of going to jail, making it almost a universal requirement for movement

participation.” But that doesn’t mean the conditions in the jails weren’t harsh.

“I slept during the day, when not nearly as many roaches walked around,” said SNCC activist Diane Nash.



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TCU

# Labor Department Suspends Job Corps Enrollment



*The TCU/IAM Advance Training Services program has placed hundreds of workers in the transportation industry and other jobs.*

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has suspended new enrollment in its Job Corps program which could affect almost 30,000 prospective students and cause layoffs of up to 10,000 staff members. The Job Corps program provides opportunities for low-income youths to earn a high school diploma, receive vocational training or earn certifications in more

than 100 specializations.

Private contractors and other federal agencies through interagency agreements operate Job Corps training centers for DOL. The TCU/IAM Training Services Department operates nine Job Corps facilities with about 450 students.

The TCU/IAM Training Services program has placed hundreds of workers in



*“At a time when thousands of our nation’s young people are counting on the Job Corps to help them find good jobs, they are being shut out.”*

**Bob Scardelletti**  
TCU/IAM President



the transportation industry and other job and has consistently received high rankings from DOL for job placement, initial starting wages and success over the long term.

“At a time when thousands of our nation’s young people are counting on the Job Corps to help them find good jobs, they are being shut out,” said TCU/IAM President Bob Scardelletti. “The short-sighted enrollment freeze will harm our nation’s young workers, create a gap in training programs that will leave businesses short of the trained workers they need, and cause potential staff layoffs at Job Corps centers nationwide.”



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## Transportation

# Flight Attendants Speak Out Against Knives on Planes



**Sara Gonzales**  
IAM Special Representative & Flight Attendant

*Flight Attendants gathered on Capitol Hill to support the "No Knives Act." The Flight Attendants Union Coalition represents nearly 90,000 Flight Attendants, including those represented by the IAM. Tap left to view a video about the Flight Attendants' campaign to protect passengers and cabin crews.*

Flight Attendants are sending their message loud and clear to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Congress: no knives on their planes. The Flight Attendants Union Coalition, which represents nearly 90,000 Flight Attendants, including IAM members, went to Capitol Hill to tell Congress to keep the skies safe.

Flight Attendants are gathering support for the No Knives Act, a law proposed by Rep. Ed Markey (D-NY) and Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY) that

would reverse a TSA decision to allow knives with blades shorter than 2.36 inches and no wider than one-half inch on commercial flights.

"Flight Attendants spend their days protecting the safety and security of the flying passengers and they deserve that same protection from TSA agents. And so does the flying public," said Sara Gonzales, a Flight Attendant and IAM Special Representative.

The new TSA policy is scheduled to go into effect April 25 and is drawing sharp





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criticism throughout the airline industry. “The IAM strongly opposes the newly announced relaxation of prohibited items and calls for a repeal of this change, said IAM Transportation General Vice President Sito Pantoja. “Allowing any type of weapon on an aircraft endangers the safety of both Flight Attendants and the flying public. It makes no sense for the TSA to allow clubs and knives to pass through security, but not a cup of coffee.”

**“Allowing any type of weapon on an aircraft endangers the safety of both Flight Attendants and the flying public.**

**It makes no sense for the TSA to allow clubs and knives to pass through security, but not a cup of coffee.”**

**Sito Pantoja**

*IAMAW Transportation  
General Vice President*



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***to sign a White House petition to keep knives out of airplane cabins.***



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## Aerospace

# Beechcraft to Protest Air Force Award to Foreign Company

The IAM is supporting Beechcraft Corporation's formal protest with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) of a U.S. Air Force contract awarded to Brazilian-based Embraer for the production and delivery of 20 Light Air Support aircraft to the Afghan Air Force. The award is worth \$427.5 million and would support about 1,400 American jobs. The IAM represents more than 3,000 active and laid-off Beechcraft workers.

"We should be very concerned when-

ever U.S. taxpayer dollars are used to create hundreds of jobs in any foreign country," said IAM International President Tom Buffenbarger. "We should be outraged when the loss of those jobs also threatens vital U.S. economic and national security interests."

Beechcraft produces the AT-6 single-engine turboprop light air attack aircraft and Embraer produces the A-29 Super Tucano. According to Beechcraft, the AT-6 bid was \$125 million less than the Embraer A-29 and the



Photo by Beechcraft Corp.

*IAM-represented workers at Beechcraft Corporation in Wichita, KS produce the AT-6 aircraft. The IAM is supporting Beechcraft's bid to save American jobs by protesting an Air Force contract award to use Brazil's Embraer A-29 instead of Beechcraft's superior AT-6 light support aircraft.*



AT-6 received an “exceptional” rating by the Air Force. Beechcraft claims the Air Force’s competition and evaluation process contained “significant errors.”

“We simply do not understand how the Air Force can justify spending over 40 percent more, over \$125 million more, for what we consider to be a less capable aircraft,” said Beechcraft CEO Bill Boisture. “The Air Force needs to make the right decision for the nation and for our future allies.”

Buffenbarger also expressed alarm over giving away U.S. jobs and technology as the government is shutting down needed services because of sequestration. “I don’t know why the U.S. government is bending over backwards to accommodate Brazil in the midst of

sequestration, but this is a real blow to American workers and taxpayers,” said Buffenbarger. “The claim by Embraer that most of their plane would be ‘built in the USA’ adds insult to the injury of the 1,400 jobs that will be destroyed here at home.”

In a letter to members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the IAM and Beechcraft expressed concern over the decision: “The U.S. aerospace industrial base, which the DOD and our nation rely upon to produce the finest military capabilities in the world, will be harmed by this decision. Our nation’s global competitors understand the reward of a vibrant domestic aerospace industry for both economic growth and national security.”



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