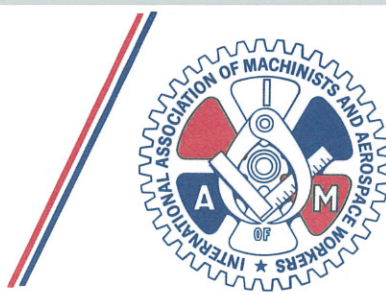


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

November 19, 2013

Dear Senator,

I am writing to urge your strong support for an important amendment (# 2270) sponsored by Senator Chris Murphy to the National Defense Authorization Act for 2014, S 1197, which would strengthen Buy American requirements for defense procurement.

This amendment would ensure that our tax dollars support American employers and jobs by requiring the DOD to use as a factor in awarding a contract the amount of domestic jobs that a firm would create or maintain.

For far too long we have neglected to take into consideration the impact of defense procurement on America's defense industrial base and, consequently, on the U.S. economy. While Americans understand intuitively that our tax dollars should be used to support U.S. firms and employ Americans, particularly when it comes to our national defense, we have not tracked the impact of over \$700 billion spent by the Department of Defense on manufactured goods over the last five years.

America needs to become smarter when it comes to defense procurement. Not only do we need the best products for our armed services, we must also support our defense industrial base, including the small and medium sized firms across America that constitute the supply chain for critical defense programs. Additionally, we must understand that the foundation of our industrial base lies with the skills and abilities of the American worker, whether that worker is an engineer or a machinist on the shop floor. Senator Murphy's common sense amendment, which strengthens our defense industrial base and, consequently, our economic and national security, deserves your support.

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President