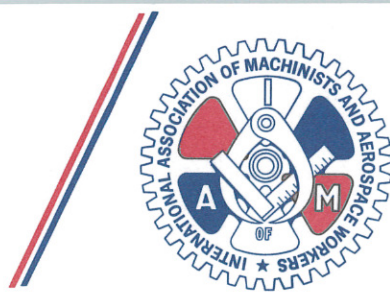


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

December 17, 2013

Dear Representative,

Recently the House passed a budget deal that threatens to leave 1.3 million unemployed Americans, including 20,000 veterans, out in the cold during this holiday season. On December 28 the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program will end. The failure to extend the EUC program also means that another 1.9 million Americans will lose their unemployment benefits during the first six months of 2014.

While the official unemployment rate has shrunk to 7 percent, our economy still has 1.3 million fewer jobs than before the start of the Great Recession and there continues to be three unemployed Americans for each available job.

Since 1958 Congress has continued the EUC program when long term unemployment, as a percent of the workforce is as high as it is now. Long term unemployment remains at historic levels and is at least twice as high as the expiration of every previous program.

While unemployment benefits average a modest \$300 per week, unemployment compensation puts food on the table, helps provide the resources for the unemployed to look for work, and provides support for consumer demand. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that ending the EUC program will cost our economy 200,000 urgently needed jobs.

I strongly urge you to take immediate action to extend the EUC program through 2014 through the passage of appropriate legislation.

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

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger