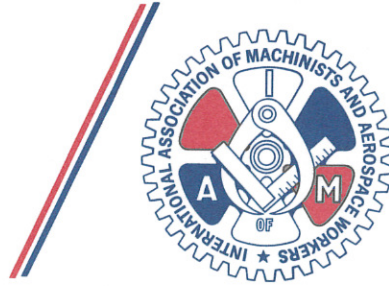


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

December 17, 2013

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1304

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2402

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Cochran,

As the largest Defense and Shipbuilding union in North America, we strongly urge that during your conference deliberations for the FY 2014 Defense Appropriations bill you include an additional \$100 million above the program budget request to enable the Navy to complete its purchase of a tenth DDG-51 as part of the FY 2013-17 multiyear procurement of AEGIS destroyers.

In a FY 2013-17 multiyear procurement the Navy awarded contracts to Huntington-Ingalls to build five DDG-51s and to Bath Iron Works (BIW) to construct four DDG-51s, which will be built by IAM members. While BIW would build the tenth ship in the multiyear buy, the Navy has identified a FY 2013 sequestration shortfall that has delayed its ability to execute the fifth ship contract with BIW.

Multiyear procurement contracts are an important way to achieve cost savings for the tax payer while providing predictability to the defense industrial base. Our highly skilled members at BIW have consistently built ships on schedule and under budget. IAM ship builders are rightly proud of the work they do to ensure our national security. We only ask that Congress provide them with the support they need to do their job.

The recently concluded FY 2014 NDAA conference authorized \$100 million to complete the production of all ten DDG-51s and we urge that the Appropriations conference be as supportive.

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

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

cc: The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby