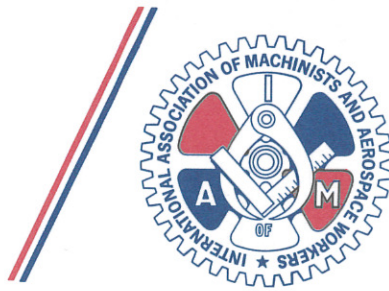


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

April 29, 2015

Dear Representative,

**As the largest Defense and Aerospace Union in North America, representing over 700,000 active and retired members, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) respectfully asks that you vote no on the amendment by Congresswoman Speier that would, unfortunately, cut six F-35A Joint Strike Fighters from 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.**

The F-35 program has been hobbled for years by low initial production rates and the savings garnered by a ramp up in production are just beginning to be realized. Delays in the F-35 procurement process will drive up costs and further damage our defense industrial base, particularly in the supply chain.

Proudly built by Machinists Union members, the F-35 program supports more than 129,000 high skill American jobs at approximately 1,200 suppliers across the nation; this results in an annual economic impact to the U.S. of over \$17.5 billion. Importantly, these numbers are expected to increase as production increases in the coming years. Additionally, unit costs for the program continue to shrink as production increases.

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

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger  
International President