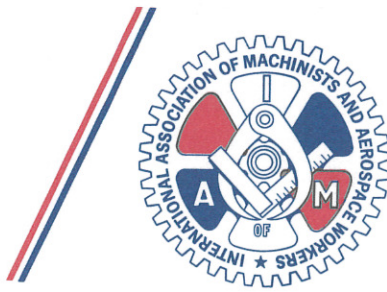


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

June 10, 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) urges you to support a bipartisan amendment to the FY 2016 Defense Appropriations, HR 2685, by Representatives Randy Forbes (R-VA) and Joe Courtney (D-CT) that would provide predictable and sustainable funding for the vitally needed Ohio Replacement submarine through the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund (NSBDF).

While a strong bipartisan group of 375 House voted to retain the NSBDF in the 2016 NDAA, Sec. 8122 of the 2016 defense appropriations bill would reverse this progress by preventing funding from "this or any other act" from being transferred into the fund. The Forbes-Courtney Amendment strikes this provision and, like the House-passed NDAA, transfers \$1.4 billion in development funds for the Ohio Replacement submarine from Navy accounts to the NSBDF.

The significant funding challenges of the Budget Control Act severely limit the ability of the Navy to plan for and meet the national security challenges of today's turbulent world. The Navy has testified that 32 ships would not be built in order to pay for Ohio Replacement if no support is provided outside the shipbuilding account, and that without additional funding our ship building industrial base will be negatively impacted and costs will rise.

It is important to note that the NSBDF is not without precedent; it mirrors a fund known as the National Defense Sealift Fund that was created in the 1990s to support construction of Navy support ships.

Please support the Forbes-Courtney Amendment to maintain progress in the critically important Ohio Replacement submarine program.

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

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President