



IAM
UNION

International Association of Machinists
& Aerospace Workers

THE IAM UNION SUPPORTS CONCRETE LEGISLATIVE TRADE SOLUTIONS FOR WORKING AMERICANS

THE FAIR TRADE FOR WORKING FAMILIES RESOLUTION (H.R. 1286)

The IAM Union recently joined Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and co-sponsors on Capitol Hill during the introduction of **the Fair Trade for Working Families Resolution**, a bold new framework for international trade policy that would put the interests of working people above the profits of multinational corporations.

For far too long, American trade policy has centered corporate interests at the expense of working families and their communities. Since 1994, over 70,000 U.S. factories have closed, resulting in the loss of manufacturing jobs—including good-paying union-represented jobs. **This decimates the communities that rely on these jobs, while allowing greedy corporations to offshore these jobs to low-wage labor markets.** Our own Union has recently seen this first-hand with the offshoring of Whirlpool jobs from Amana, Iowa, to Mexico, leaving hundreds of workers without a job during an economic environment of great uncertainty and rising unaffordability.

The Fair Trade for Working Families Resolution would:

- Eliminate erratic tariff policies that create uncertainty for workers and businesses alike;
- Cut corporate incentives to offshore jobs by requiring strong labor standards and enforceable rules of origin; and
- Restore full funding for the U.S. Labor Department's Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, so workers who lose jobs to offshoring can retrain and get back on their feet.

A weak trade approach that does not center the American workforce is also a threat to national security. The more we are forced to rely on supply chains from other nations, the more risks we face to continue to maintain strong domestic production.

Trade policy must be judged not by the growth of corporate profits, but by its impact on the workers, families, and communities that bear the consequences when deals go wrong. **Our Union continues to call for trade agreements with enforceable labor standards, investment in domestic manufacturing, and accountability for trading partners. That is why we urge support for H.R. 1286.**

(continues on back)

THE TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE MODERNIZATION ACT (H.R. 7805)

The IAM Union recently joined Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee Ranking Member Linda T. Sanchez (D-CA) and Labor Allies to introduce the **Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Modernization Act**, a bill to renew the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which Congress allowed funding to lapse in 2022.

Trade Adjustment Assistance provides displaced U.S. workers with critical support, including job training, income support, health care assistance and reemployment services. Workers who went through the program earned, on average, \$50,000 more over a 10-year period than those who did not access the program. **Since the program expired, nearly 200,000 workers have filed petitions for assistance, but their cases remain pending due to the lapse in congressional authorization. And that number continues to grow.**

The TAA must be reauthorized, modernized, and properly funded to help assist and retrain workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. Their job losses are caused by greedy corporate decisions that rely on bad trade policy and trade loopholes to prioritize shareholder profits over people. **And every day that Congress fails to act, American workers and their families are left to struggle.**

The TAA Modernization Act would:

- Reauthorize TAA for Workers, TAA for Firms and TAA for Farmers programs for seven years.
- Address shortcomings in the program by expanding eligibility, increasing funding and improving benefits (such as providing for childcare expenses).
- Establish a new TAA Communities program and reinject funding into the popular and successful TAA for Community Colleges program.

The IAM knows firsthand how critical the TAA program is to workers who lost their jobs as a result of outsourcing and unfair trade practices. When Caterpillar shuttered its Joliet, Ill., facility in 2018 and 2019 and moved roughly 600 IAM jobs to Mexico, TAA was there. When Truck-Lite closed its Falconer, N.Y., plant in early 2020 and shipped more than 150 jobs to Mexico and China, TAA was there. Now, nearly 700 Whirlpool workers in Amana, Iowa, are losing their jobs to Mexico. **Without TAA reauthorization, these workers lose not just their paychecks, but the job training and financial support they need to rebuild their lives.** That's not just a blow to workers, it's a blow to their families and their communities.

Our Union continues to call for trade agreements with enforceable labor standards, investment in domestic manufacturing, and accountability for trading partners. But assistance and training for members cannot be excluded from the necessary worker-centered trade fixes. **That is why we urge support for H.R. 7805.**