International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

A MACHINISTS AND DEROSPACE

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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

February 6, 2017

President Donald Trump The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) represents hundreds of thousands of members who work in the manufacturing and transportation industries. Our members design, build, service and transport the products and equipment that help create and expand the United States economy. They know how important U.S. manufacturing is to our communities and our nation. In addition to providing high-wage, high-skilled jobs, manufacturing also leads to innovation and technological advances upon which new industries rely. These new industries, in turn, lead to new jobs and a sustainable and prosperous economic future for all Americans.

As a tireless advocate for U.S. workers, the IAM joins you in promoting manufacturing in the United States and opposing trade policies that cost us millions of manufacturing jobs, especially failed trade agreements like NAFTA and the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. We believe that the time is long overdue for policy makers to stand up to U.S. corporations who are all too willing to move jobs to Mexico, China, or anywhere else in the world to take advantage of workers who do not enjoy fundamental human rights—like the right to form a union.

As you plan activities for your Administration, we want to work with you on creating manufacturing and trade policies that work for U.S. workers. We too believe that there must be a change in a culture that today rewards companies for sending our jobs overseas. Unfortunately, IAM members have frequently been the victims of U.S. corporations sending our jobs to other countries. Recent examples include Eaton Hydraulics in Hutchinson, Kansas, which announced that it would be closing its plant and eliminating 100 local jobs after it had announced that it would be moving production to Mexico. Or General Electric, which recently announced that it would stop manufacturing gas engines in Waukesha, Wisconsin and move 350 jobs out of the U.S. We hope you join us by demanding that General Electric and Eaton reverse their decisions and keep jobs in Wisconsin and Kansas.

We are also deeply troubled over the announcement that Boeing plans to open a new 737 finishing center in China—work that should be performed in the U.S.² In addition, there are reports of a proposal to move Lockheed's F-16 assembly work to India.³ Although we are not privy to the details of either of these two matters, we do know that countries like China and India demand the transfer of production to them in return for sales. These outsourcing deals take away

¹ http://www.hutchnews.com/news/business/eaton-announces-plan-to-close-hutchinson-plant-by-october-jobs/article_52cf8f36-7ef9-5db0-bff3-6950a3fe7999.html)

² http://www.seattletimes.com/business/boeing-aerospace/boeing-offers-a-few-details-on-737-finishing-center-in-china/

³ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/as-trump-vows-to-stop-flow-of-jobs-overseas-us-plans-to-make-fighter-jets-in-india/2016/12/05/a4d3bfaa-b71e-11e6-939c-91749443c5e5_story.html?utm_term=.4df75e068cab

American jobs and the U.S. should be doing everything we can to eliminate their use by any country against us and our workers.

Outsourcing jobs and technology in the aerospace industry is especially damaging to our nation's economy. The jobs in the aerospace industry that are being sacrificed are the highly skilled jobs our country needs to ensure the sustainability of our manufacturing base in the future. They are also critical to ensure the viability of our defense industry. As this industry off-loads production to other countries, our nation will be vulnerable in the event our allies become our enemies and supply chains are disrupted.

We also want to work with you in making sure that Buy American rules are implemented and enforced. Today, federal agencies implement varying rules for determining what constitutes Made in America. We believe that in order to qualify for federal contracts under Buy American regulations, products must be manufactured with 100 percent U.S. labor, parts and materials. Of course, this includes all products, equipment, ammunition, clothing and other items related to defense procurement.

We also strongly support programs to reinvest in our nation's infrastructure. Our roads, rails, bridges, airports and tunnels need to be modernized. Putting America back to work by funding these projects on a massive scale would go a long way to rebuilding our middle class, especially if projects receiving federal funding were required to use U.S. made materials and equipment.

Americans have different opinions about hundreds of matters. One thing we can all agree on, however, is the importance of creating good jobs here at home. The IAM stands ready to work with you and your Administration on stopping the outsourcing of U.S. jobs to other countries.

Sincerely,

Robert Martinez, Jr.

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

International Association of

Machinists and Aerospace Workers

cc:

Executive Council