International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

February 13, 2018

Office of Governor Eric Greitens P.O. Box 720 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Governor Greitens,

I am writing on behalf of more than 600,000 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), to request your assistance in saving nearly 600 IAM-represented jobs at Harley-Davidson in Kansas City, Missouri. In addition to Harley-Davidson, a supplier to the motorcycle company, Syncreon will also eliminate the jobs of hundreds of other union employees severely impacting the community and region.

On January 30, 2018, Harley-Davidson suddenly announced that it would be closing its plant in Kansas City, leaving hundreds of working men and women out of work and devastating the local economy. Since 1993, hard-working Machinists Union members have devoted their lives to making high quality motorcycles for this company. Their loyalty, skills, and dedication to excellence have helped make Harley-Davidson the successful, trusted brand that it is today. It is a disgrace that Harley-Davidson could not show these workers the same loyalty they have shown the company over the years.

Motorcycles made by hard-working Americans here in the USA are not just Harley-Davidson bikes, they are America's motorcycles. Last year, President Trump touted the company as an example of one of the finest U.S. made manufacturing plants in the country. Harley-Davidson executives and union workers displayed their craftsmanship with the President in the rose garden. Now, weeks after Congress passed the tax bill signed by the president, Harley-Davidson announces it is shutting its doors in your state. The company reported the new tax law would reduce its effective tax rate to 23.5-25% this year. That is down from an effective tax rate of 39.6% in 2017. Harley-Davidson was supposed to be increasing jobs not shutting down and consolidating their plants.

The Kansas City Business Journal recently ranked Harley-Davidson as No. 54 on their list of top area private-sector employers and the seventh-biggest manufacturer in the Kansas City area. But Harley-Davidson is not just another manufacturing plant; it is a way of life. Workers and their families live and breathe these bikes and the proof is in their employees' parking lot, where parking spaces are lined with Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Due to the limited information and lack of notice provided by the company; these employees, their families, and this community have many unanswered questions. I urge you to use your influence as governor to organize meetings between yourself, other elected officials, local labor leaders, business interests, community groups, and the company to discuss the many issues and questions surrounding this announcement. In addition, I urge you to explore any and all strategies to convince this company to reverse its decision and keep these manufacturing jobs in your state.

I look forward to working with you personally on this issue of such vital importance to our members in Kansas City and to the State of Missouri.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Martinez, Jr.

International President