International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

September 6, 2019

Dear Representative,

I am writing on behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), to express our serious concerns with the letter you sent to Speaker Pelosi urging her to bring the renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to a hasty vote this year. NAFTA 2.0 as currently written, does not come close to reflecting the much-needed changes that we have submitted to the USTR. This agreement will not be ready to be considered until its text is changed to reflect our detailed suggestions regarding a number of chapters, including, those concerning labor and rules of origin. Without such changes, NAFTA 2.0 will continue to foster the continuing outsourcing of U.S. jobs to Mexico, as companies seek to take advantage of workers who do not enjoy fundamental rights.

The Machinists Union believes that strong and enforceable labor standards, which are missing from the current agreement must be included in its text. Other provisions that would remove the incentive to outsource U.S. manufacturing jobs must be addressed. In aerospace and related industries alone, thousands of jobs that could have been created in the U.S. are now contributing to more than 40,000 aerospace jobs that currently exist in Mexico.

NAFTA was implemented 25 years ago and Mexican workers still find themselves being deprived of such basic human rights, like the right to form a union, engage in collective bargaining and be free from discrimination, child labor and forced labor. The current labor chapter, which basically reflects the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement, which has cost the U.S. thousands of jobs so far, has been effectively copied into NAFTA 2.0. We can do better. We must do better.

Until the changes are fixed in the newly negotiated agreement, NAFTA 2.0 should not be brought to the floor for a vote. We strongly oppose your insistence that a vote take place this year and urge you to reconsider our requests for a NAFTA that can be acceptable to us and all of the working families you represent.

Should you have any questions, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575 or via email at hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Thank you,

Robert Martinez, Jr. International President