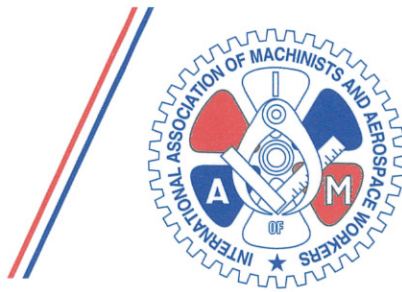


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

October 23, 2019

Dear Representative,

I strongly urge you to sign on to this important letter led by Representatives Mark Pocan, Pramila Jayapal, Ayanna Pressley and Eleanor Holmes Norton to Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer advocating for the inclusion of language the Senates FY2020 appropriations bill that would ensure back pay to compensate federal contract workers for wages lost during the 35-day government shutdown.

The Machinists Union represents thousands of federal contract workers who were furloughed or forced to work without pay during the record breaking shutdown. These men and women work side-by-side with federal workers performing jobs that are absolutely vital to the government and to the people of the United States. To many of these federal contract workers and their families, the impact of this pointless shutdown has been crippling. Through no fault of their own many of these families are facing the reality of missing payments on their mortgages, student loans, school tuition, car loans, health care premiums, daycare, interest fees, and so many other expenses. Contract workers and their families should not suffer the consequences of a shutdown they had no hand in creating.

Congress passed legislation granting back pay to federal government workers impacted by the shutdown. The IAM commends Congress for this principled and just legislation. Now it is time to take equal steps on behalf of impacted government contract workers.

The Machinists Union urges you to sign on to this important letter and take action to support fair compensation for federal contract workers in the wake of the government shutdown. To sign on, please contact Alex Campbell at alex.campbell@mail.house.gov in Congressman Mark Pocan's office. The deadline to sign on is COB Wednesday, October 30, 2019.

For more information, please contact IAM Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301)967-4575 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Thank you,

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President

October XX, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

As the Senate considers appropriation legislation for fiscal year 2020, the Congressional Progressive Caucus strongly encourages you to include – consistent with House-passed legislation – backpay for workers who were employed by federal government contractors and who did not receive pay during the most recent federal government shutdown which ended in January 2019.

Federal contractors work alongside government employees performing critical jobs that include food service, engineering, security, maintenance, electrical work, and much more. For many contract workers, missing even one paycheck can leave their family unable to pay rent, mortgage payments, or grocery bills. Unfortunately, contract workers impacted by the most recent shutdown did not receive multiple paychecks, and they were not made whole at the conclusion of the shutdown unlike federal workers. Federally contracted workers, and their families, bear no responsibility for the shutdown, but ultimately, they continue to pay for it.

Unlike their federal counterparts, contractors have not been made whole from the last shutdown. This represents a moral failure on the part of Congress. The House has taken the first step in passing appropriation language to provide this back pay and we ask the Senate to incorporate backpay into still-developing Senate legislation. This would dramatically improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of American workers who still face the repercussions of the shutdown over the most recent holiday season.

We thank you for reviewing this important request, and we look forward to working with you to ensure impacted federal contract workers receive the pay they missed through no fault of their own.

Sincerely,

[Members of Congress]