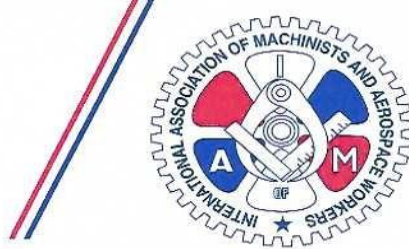


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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Area Code 301
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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

April 27, 2020

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

I am writing on behalf of over 600,000 active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), to request your assistance in saving 600 IAM-represented aluminum smelting jobs at Alcoa Intalco Works in Ferndale, Washington. On April 22nd, company leadership announced plans to shut down this strategically important aluminum smelting operation, one of the few facilities of its kind remaining in the United States. Allowing this facility to close would do irreparable damage to our nation's capacity to produce aluminum domestically, severely damage our domestic supply chain, and endanger our national security and sovereignty especially in times of national emergency or foreign conflict. Furthermore, this closure would leave nearly 700 hard-working men and women out of work and devastate the local economy and surrounding communities.

For generations, the highly-skilled, IAM-represented workforce at Alcoa Intalco has proudly produced high-quality aluminum ingots which are a vital component in nearly every sector of U.S. manufacturing, from aerospace and shipbuilding to automotive and medical equipment manufacturing. Despite the obvious strategic importance of domestic aluminum, the U.S. aluminum industry has been decimated in recent decades, as the heavily subsidized Chinese aluminum industry has come to dominate and control the world market. In 1979, there were more than 10 aluminum smelters in the Pacific Northwest. This facility in Ferndale, WA is the last one remaining in the region. Nationwide, there are now only seven domestic aluminum smelters. All of the other facilities have been forced out of business, unable to compete with cheap Chinese steel produced with lax labor and environmental standards and dumped on the world market without regard for international trade laws. In contrast, China currently has approximately 150 aluminum smelters within their borders. This discrepancy jeopardizes national security by leaving the United States at the mercy of foreign producers, and in particular Chinese producers, for one of the most critical inputs to defense and general manufacturing. This reliance on foreign aluminum has become particularly apparent during the current COVID-19 epidemic, where high-quality aluminum is needed quickly and seamlessly to manufacture ventilators, hospital beds, and other vital medical equipment.

The aluminum smelting operation at Alcoa Intalco Works is of particular strategic importance as it is one of the largest aluminum producers in the United States, producing more than 280,000 tons per year. It is also the last remaining facility in the Western United States, and is the only U.S. aluminum smelter with proximity to a deep water port. Most importantly, the facility boasts a workforce of 600

highly-skilled, Machinists Union workers. Their level of skill, decades of experience and peerless dedication to their craft would be impossible to replicate if this workforce were to be disassembled. If this facility in Ferndale is allowed to close, it will never come back, and another nail will be driven into the coffin of the U.S. aluminum industry along with our ability to domestically manufacture strategically important products as a sovereign nation.

In addition to the 600 IAM-represented workers at Alcoa Intalco, there are another 100 men and women working at this facility who are not represented by the Machinists Union. That is a total of 700 working families who will instantly lose their livelihood in a city of only 15,000 people. Alcoa Intalco Works has consistently been one of the largest employers in all of Whatcom County, and it is estimated that every job at Alcoa Intalco supports more than four indirect and induced jobs in the region. It is clear; the effect of this plant closure on these workers, their families, and the surrounding community would be devastating.

The Machinists Union is going to fight to save these vitally important jobs. We are ready and willing to work with all parties to keep this facility running and help save this vital industry before it is too late. Senator, we respectfully request your assistance and ask that you work with us to save these jobs, this facility, and this strategically vital industry.

Sincerely,



Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President



Gary Allen
General Vice President of the Western Territory