International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

April 3, 2020

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of over 600,000 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM). IAM members build, transport, maintain and service the products that sustain our economy and keep our nation secure. Our members work in several industries, including aerospace, manufacturing, defense, transportation and healthcare. We have helped create the most successful companies in the world, including, Boeing, General Electric, United Technologies, Lockheed, and many, many others. The IAM urges you to join us in demanding that <u>all</u> employers provide the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for their employees and urge that all employers follow CDC guidelines and sanitize workplaces.

The work of IAM members is critical during this time of crisis, brought on by COVID-19. Unfortunately, in far, far too many situations our members are being put in harm's way because they do not have the necessary proper personal protective equipment to perform their jobs and be protected from the virus that has spread throughout our nation. As a result, our members are at serious risk of illness and death, which puts our entire manufacturing industry and transportation system at risk of total collapse. Further, when our members are exposed to the virus, they risk transmitting the virus to their families and communities. If our country fails to immediately protect these essential workers, we will fail to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not acceptable.

We must work together to ensure that no worker is forced to choose between their job and their health. The IAM strongly urges you to use the full powers of the presidency available under the Defense Production Act to dramatically and immediately ramp up production and distribution of personal protective equipment. Our nation has the abundant capacity to complete this task.

The Defense Production Act was created to allow our country to quickly respond to national emergencies. The size, scale and dire outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitate the immediate use of the full powers of the Defense Production Act. The lives of our members and all working people in the aerospace, manufacturing, defense, transportation, healthcare and other industries depend on it.

Since 2016 and prior to the onset of COVID-19, over 50 IAM represented plants were closed, including Electrolux in St. Cloud, MN and UTC in Chula Vista, CA. Since the current crisis began, IAM members are being laid off in record numbers. Many IAM represented manufacturing plants that now sit quiet have the skilled workforce and the capacity to begin producing desperately needed personal protective equipment. The IAM stands ready to work with you to identify companies that can produce the much-needed protective equipment.

Time is of the essence. We do not have the luxury of waiting to put this into action. Our courageous brothers and sisters at the IAM are putting their lives on the line every time they go to work without personal protective equipment. We can do better. We must do better.

Respectfully,

Robert Martinez Jr.

International President

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