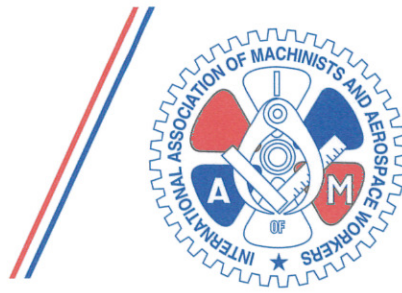


# International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

June 24, 2020

Dear Mr. President,

**On behalf of more than 4,300 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) currently on strike at Bath Iron Works (BIW) in Bath, Maine and more than 600,000 active and retired members of the IAM nationwide; I write to respectfully request your assistance in preserving the integrity and future of the highly-skilled workforce at BIW.** These proud shipbuilding workers do not take lightly the decision to stand up for their rights and take collective action, but the company has left these men and women no choice. We ask that you stand with us to urge BIW, and their parent company General Dynamics, to put aside their misguided proposals to risk mission success by subcontracting our work to under-skilled contractors and gut our members' seniority rights at work, which is the heart of any collective bargaining agreement.

For generations, Machinists Union members at BIW have worked tirelessly to produce the finest ships the world has ever seen. Our members have made innumerable sacrifices over the years building ships which ensure the safety and success of our men and women in uniform. For the last several months, this dedicated workforce has taken on the additional sacrifice of working through the COVID-19 pandemic, risking their health and the health of their loved ones, to continue to support this vital mission. In these uncertain times, General Dynamics should be doing everything in their power to ensure the safety and prosperity of this highly-skilled workforce. Instead, the company has presented these workers with a slap in the face, proposing to subcontract much of their work to out-of-state contractors and jeopardizing our members' safety, health, and livelihoods.

Our members at BIW are highly disappointed and frustrated with the company proposal to subcontract. Throughout our negotiations, the union has presented the company with a number of viable solutions to adequately meet the workforce needs of BIW and the U.S. Navy. Unfortunately, the company has refused to listen to any of these sensible solutions, and instead remains steadfast in their apparent attempt to cut corners and subcontract this work to a substandard, under-skilled workforce. Our members are highly concerned about the impact the company proposals could have on the mission to which they have devoted their lives. The ships they build engage in a wide variety of combat and peacekeeping maritime missions with world-class success for the U.S. Navy. Given the vital role these ships play in the safety and security of our nation, our members are highly concerned by the prospect of any dilution of their skills, qualifications, and certifications.

Our members, along with U.S. taxpayers and your administration, have continuously worked with Bath Iron Works and their parent company General Dynamics to provide the company with every necessary tool to ensure their success. Record breaking defense budgets throughout your administration have sent General Dynamics's revenue and profits soaring in recent years. Additionally, the corporate tax cuts encompassed in your Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduced the company's effective tax rate from 28.6% in 2017 down to 17.8% in 2018. With this tax windfall, General Dynamics greatly increased stock buybacks and dividend payments, giving nearly \$2.9 billion to their stockholders in 2018 alone. We are certain that U.S. taxpayers did not provide the company with these resources in order to cut quality, middle-

class job and substitute them with low-wage jobs for out-of-state contractors. Taxpayers agreed to provide these incentives to the company in order to create quality jobs, and we should make sure that the company honors that commitment.

It is our strong belief that the decision to eliminate quality jobs and subcontract out this work is not inevitable. The Machinists Union is ready and willing to work with all partners in the fight to save these vitally important jobs. We respectfully ask for you to join us in this effort. We ask that you start by sending a strong reminder to the company of its commitment to these workers, to the American public, and our men and women in uniform who rely on world-class ships built by world-class workers. We also request that you send a strong message to the company asking that they promptly return to the bargaining table in order to seek a fair and equitable settlement to this agreement which best serves the Navy's mission, honors the interests of U.S. taxpayers, and respects our highly-skilled workforce. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this very important request. We look forward to working with you on this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert Martinez, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Martinez, Jr.  
International President, IAMAW