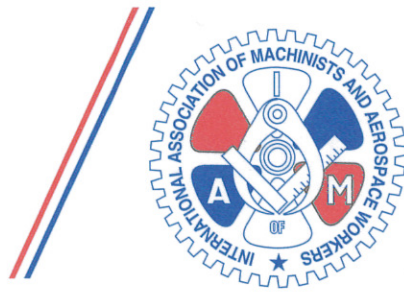


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

March 5, 2020

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the largest defense and aerospace union in the United States, I am writing to urge you to sign on to an important bipartisan letter in support of the F-35 Lightning II program (see attached). The letter, led by Representatives John Larson (D-CT), Martha Roby (R-AL), Marc Veasey (D-TX) and Michael Turner (R-OH), asks the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House Armed Services Committee and House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee to continue their support for increased procurement rate and continued investment in this critical defense program.

The F-35 is the most advanced fighter aircraft in the world, and continued ramp up of this program is essential to our national security and ensuring the United States maintains its air dominance. In addition, the F-35 provides for thousands of high-skilled, Machinists Union jobs and supports more than 220,000 direct and indirect jobs nationwide. Due to a sustained commitment to the program and an increased production rate of F-35s in recent years, the cost per aircraft has been reduced substantially while at the same time bolstering our domestic economy and industrial base.

To ensure future air dominance, continue job creation, and sustained cost savings per aircraft; it is critical that we increase F-35 production and provide the necessary program investments in the upcoming defense authorization and appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2021.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to sign on to the attached bipartisan letter. To sign on, please contact Serj Banjac in Representative Larson's office at srdan.banjac@mail.house.gov, Judd Smith in Representative Roby's office at judd.smith@mail.house.gov, Luke Dube in Representative Veasey's office at luke.dube@mail.house.gov, or Michael Calcagni in Representative Turner's office at michael.calcagni@mail.house.gov.

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

Dear Colleague:

As we develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 defense authorization and appropriations bills, we urge you to join us and support increased production and continued investment in the F-35 program. As we face increasingly advanced global threats, it is critical that we continue to increase F-35 production – our nation’s only 5th generation stealth aircraft – in order to reduce overall program costs and ensure the United States maintains its competitive edge.

We are specifically requesting support for a total of 98 F-35s in the Fiscal Year 2021 Defense authorization and appropriations bills, which would represent an increase of 19 aircraft over the President’s budget request. We are also requesting full funding for modernization efforts known as Continuous Capability Development and Delivery (C2D2), which are critical to meeting the evolving threat in the mid-2020s and into the 2030s.

The F-35 aircraft costs have come down more than 60 percent since the procurement of the first production aircraft more than 12 years ago and the Fiscal Year 2020 cost of F-35As has dropped to \$77.9 million per aircraft. Continued commitment to the F-35 is essential to meet the growing global threat, but the program also contributes to our national economy by supporting more than 1,400 suppliers and more than 220,000 direct and indirect jobs across the country. This adds up to more than a \$44.2 billion annual economic impact across 45 states and Puerto Rico.

Thank you for your continued support of the F-35 program and if you would like to sign onto the below letter, please click [here](#) or contact [Serj Banjac](#) in Congressman Larson’s office, [Judd Smith](#) in Congresswoman Roby’s office, [Luke Dube](#) in Congressman Veasey’s office, or [Michael Calcagni](#) in Congressman Turner's office.

Sincerely,

John B. Larson

Co-Chair, JSF Caucus

Martha Roby

Co-Chair, JSF Caucus

Marc A. Veasey

Co-Chair, JSF Caucus

Michael R. Turner

Co-Chair, JSF Caucus

LETTER TEXT

The Honorable Adam Smith

Chairman

House Armed Service Committee

2216 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky

Chairman

House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee

H-405, The Capitol

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry

Ranking Member

House Armed Services Committee

2216 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert

Ranking Member

House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee

H-405, The Capitol

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2021 defense authorization and appropriations bills, we strongly urge your continued support for the F-35 Lightning II program. As you well know, our adversaries continue to advance surface-to-air missile systems and develop their own stealth fighters. It is essential that we continue to increase production of our nation's only 5th generation stealth fighter in order to ensure the United States maintains air dominance and to further reduce overall program costs.

The F-35 is the most advanced fighter in the world and is exceeding operational expectations. The three U.S. Services and our allies are now flying more than 491 aircraft at 21 locations around the world. The program is beginning to show maturity and warrants continued support.

In fact, as global threats continue to rise, the Department of Defense's (DoD) Fiscal Year 2021 budget request, which includes funding for 79 F-35s (48 F-35As, 10 F-35Bs and 21 F-35Cs) - 19 less than Congress appropriated in Fiscal Year 2020 - leaves the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps with a capability gap that 4th Generation, or legacy, aircraft cannot fulfill. To reach the minimum 50% ratio of 5th Generation and 4th Generation fighters in the timeframe required to meet the threat, the U.S. must acquire F-35s in much larger quantities. Not only does the F-35

program deliver air superiority for the United States and its key allies, it also bolsters our domestic economy by supporting more than 1,400 suppliers and more than 220,000 direct and indirect jobs across the country.

Therefore, we are requesting your support for a total of 98 F-35 aircraft in the Fiscal Year 2021 defense authorization and appropriations bills, which is an increase of 19 aircraft over the President's budget request. This request supports the Air Force and Navy Unfunded Requirements. It is vitally important for Congress to provide authorization and funding for 60 F-35As (+12), 12 F-35Bs (+2), and 26 F-35Cs (+5) in Fiscal Year 2021. This increase in procurement will restore previously planned F-35 production rates negatively impacted by the sequestration era budget caps resulting from the Budget Control Act.

Additional funding is needed to address readiness, enhance aircraft availability, and most importantly accelerate compliance with the DoD 80% Mission Capable Mandate. Specifically, additional funding is needed for spare parts and depot level repair capability to meet the required availability rates and accelerate the stand-up of mandated, organic government repair capabilities. In addition, adequate investments in the Reliability and Maintainability Improvement Program will not only increase readiness but also bring costs down for years to come over the life of the aircraft. Lastly, we believe a long-term, outcome-based sustainment contract will guarantee performance metrics at a fixed-price — a win-win for our men and women in uniform and the American taxpayers.

We also urge you to fully fund the President's budget request for modernization efforts, known as Continuous Capability Development and Delivery (C2D2), and as funds are available, accelerate integration of the Joint Air to Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM) on to the F-35. C2D2 is critical to meeting the evolving threat in the mid-2020s and into the 2030s. Full funding is needed for the delivery of new weapons and critical capabilities necessary to keep the F-35 ahead of our adversaries. F-35 modernization is crucial for 4th generation aircraft systems, which are increasingly vulnerable and reliant on 5th generation production.

The F-35 aircraft costs have come down more than 60 percent since the procurement of the first production aircraft more than 12 years ago; in fact, in Fiscal Year 2020, an F-35A costs \$77.9 million. To maintain these costs savings and to ensure future air dominance, it is critical that we increase F-35 production and provide the necessary program investments in the upcoming defense authorization and appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2021.

Thank you for your continued support of the F-35 program and for your leadership.

Sincerely,