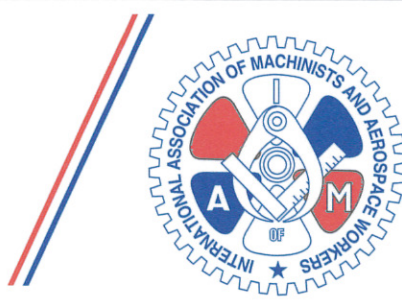


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

July 14, 2020

Dear Senator,

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; I write to respectfully request your assistance in preserving the integrity and future of the highly-skilled workforce at BIW. These proud shipbuilding workers, who have now been on strike for three weeks, 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 these workers to urge BIW, and their parent company General Dynamics, to put aside their misguided proposals to subcontract additional work to out-of-state contractor and gut our members' seniority provisions, which are the heart of any union contract.

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 jeopardize our members' safety, health, and livelihoods.

Our members in Maine are highly disappointed and frustrated with the company proposal to increase the frequency of subcontracting. Throughout these 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 proposal to subcontract additional 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.

It is our strong belief that the decision to eliminate jobs and subcontract additional work is not inevitable. The Machinists Union is ready and willing to work with all partners in our effort to save these vitally important jobs and ensure that the necessary skilled workforce is available to continue to build the world's greatest ships for the U.S. Navy. 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, U.S. taxpayers, and our men and women in uniform who rely on world-class ships built by world-class workers. We ask that you send a strong message to the company that they should promptly return to the bargaining table with new ideas and proposals in order to seek a fair and equitable settlement to this disagreement. Thank you, and we look forward to working with you on this vitally important issue.

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Martinez, Jr." with a small circle above the 'i' in "Jr.".

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President, IAMAW