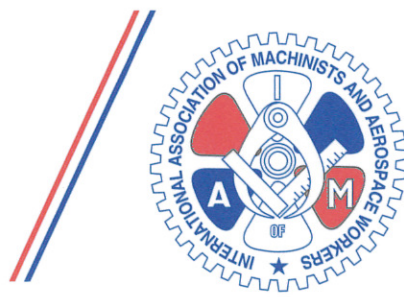


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

July 15, 2020

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the International Assoc. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (“IAM”) and the thousands of sugar workers that we proudly represent in Florida, **we are writing to express our strong opposition to any amendments to the Water Resources bill that affect Lake Okeechobee and its surrounding area. However, the IAM will NOT oppose the manager’s amendment negotiated by the Committee.**

We are strongly opposed to any proposals that will undermine the entire water supply allocation process that has been in place in Florida for 50 years and established in federal water policy for even longer. It has come to our attention that some Members have been working behind closed doors on language that was NOT vetted with any stakeholders with existing water use rights based on reliable federal operating rules for Lake Okeechobee. Because it impacts such a large portion of South Florida, water legislation has traditionally been negotiated by all affected Members so that there is a consensus and agreement.

Again, no language or amendments should be considered that have such far reaching impacts through a process that has cut out so many stakeholders, especially the Florida delegation.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to call our National Legislative Director Hasan Solomon (301) 967-4575 or email hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President, IAMAW