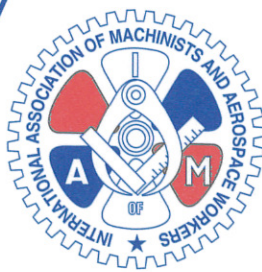


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

August 5, 2020

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the largest airline union in North America, proudly representing over 600,000 active and retired workers, we respectfully ask that you support the inclusion of a “clean” extension of the commercial airline Payroll Support Program (“PSP”) in the COVID-19 relief legislation currently being negotiated in Congress. Without an extension of the PSP, hundreds of thousands of aviation workers will be furloughed when the program expires on September 30, 2020. We specifically ask that you extend the PSP authorities in the CARES Act through March 31, 2021 and save thousands of frontline airline workers’ jobs.

We applaud Congress for passing the CARES Act – which provided commercial airlines with \$32 billion in payroll support grants to be exclusively used “for continuation of employee wages, salaries, and benefits.” By preventing Airlines from imposing involuntary furloughs or reducing employee payroll and benefits until September 30, 2020, this critical legislation has kept hundreds of thousands of airline workers on payroll and with healthcare benefits during this devastating COVID-19 pandemic.

We strongly believe the PSP is arguably one of the most effective programs that came from the passage of the CARES Act. Its direct payroll pass-through saved thousands of our Machinists union members’ aviation jobs and NOT one dime went to enrich the airline CEO’s or their shareholders. This extremely successful federal program saved nearly 1 million good airline jobs.

Unfortunately, global travel continues to stall due to the pandemic and we believe travel bookings will remain at historic lows at least through the end of 2020. Last month, both United Airlines sent out 36,000 WARN notices to its employees and American Airlines also sent out 25,000 WARN notices to its workforce. Nearly 17,000 Southwest employees, or about 28% of the workforce, signed up for leaves of absence or early retirement. At Alaska Airlines, 4,200 employees were given WARN notices or laid off. We proudly represent thousands of workers at those carriers. With the PSP set to expire on September 30th, Congress is now running out of time – the immediate extension of the program is necessary to avoid over 250,000 projected layoffs in the aviation industry in October.

Hopefully, the hundreds of thousands of aviation workers in the United States can count on your support for a “clean” extension of the PSP.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this very important request, please do not hesitate to call our Legislative Director Hasan Solomon (301) 967-4575 office or hsolomon@iamaw.org

Sincerely,

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President, IAMAW

Sito Pantoja
General Vice President, Transportation, IAM