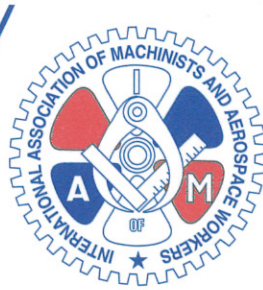


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

December 8, 2020

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), the largest defense and aerospace union in North America, **I strongly urge you to vote "Yes" on H.R. 6395, the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (FY21 NDAA).** This vitally important, bipartisan legislation will help ensure our U.S. national security, bolster the safety and effectiveness of our men and women in uniform and sustain hundreds of thousands of high-skilled jobs in the aerospace defense and shipbuilding industries.

Federal spending on defense directly provides for hundreds of thousands of high-quality, middle-class jobs in the manufacturing industry and beyond. We proudly represent more than 100,000 of these highly skilled defense industry workers. The FY 21 NDAA maintains this commitment to domestic aerospace defense workers by authorizing robust funding for programs which our members proudly build and maintain. These programs include the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the F-18 Super Hornet, the C-130 Super Hercules, the F-15 Eagle, the KC-46 Tanker and the P-8 Poseidon. The FY21 NDAA also wisely authorizes funding to rebuild the U.S. Navy fleet of ships and submarines. The legislation provides robust funding for Machinists Union built vessels, such as the DDG-51 Arleigh Burke Destroyer, the Columbia-class ballistic submarine, and restores funding for two Virginia-class attack submarines per year. In addition to the more than 100,000 Machinists Union jobs these programs sustain, this spending also generates countless numbers of indirect and induced jobs as the benefits of this federal spending works its way through our economic system.

Importantly, the FY21 NDAA supports a well-deserved 3 percent pay increase for our nation's armed service members. The legislation also supports several important pro-worker provisions which will benefit our members in the federal sector. The legislation includes additional pandemic leave and paid parental leave provisions for most federal employees as they bravely work through the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill also protects federal workers by placing restrictions on any reduction in the federal civilian workforce and requiring each federal agency to establish a model Equal Employment Opportunity Anti-discrimination Program.

Unfortunately, the final version of the FY21 NDAA does not include the House-passed NDAA language which would have gradually increased Buy American requirements for major defense programs to 100 percent. The Machinists Union worked closely with Congressman Donald Norcross (D-NJ) to develop this common-sense provision. We are disappointed the Buy American language was not retained in the final version of the bill, however, we still see the importance and utility in wholeheartedly supporting the legislation overall.

The FY 2021 NDAA is principled, bipartisan legislation which will help ensure our national security, give our service members the tools they need to remain safe and effective, and sustain hundreds of thousands of high-skilled jobs in the defense manufacturing industry. **For all of these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote "Yes" on the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 6395.**

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