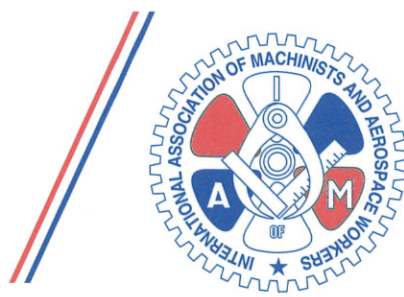


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

January 28, 2021

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), the largest aerospace manufacturing union in North America, I urge you to cosponsor the Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Act of 2021. This vitally important, bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives Rick Larsen (D-WA) and Ron Estes (R-KS) would help prevent mass layoffs in the aerospace manufacturing and maintenance, overhaul and repair (MRO) industries as our nation works to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

With global air travel stalled and travel booking forecast to remain at historic lows through at least the end of 2020, the domestic aerospace manufacturing industry and the highly-skilled workforce on which it relies are facing dire economic consequence. The commercial and general aviation sectors provide for hundreds of thousands of high-skilled jobs which are a proven gateway to the middle class. The U.S. aerospace industry contributes billions in annual economic activity and is one of the few industries where the United States enjoys a positive balance of trade. It is vitally important to our national security, our domestic supply chain and our role in the global economy that we support this indispensable industry and the workers which are its backbone.

The Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Act would help protect the industry and its workforce by establishing a “Payroll Support Extension Program”. This program would allow the Treasury to provide a 50% cost-share of compensation for aerospace industry employees most at risk of layoff or furlough due to the pandemic. The legislation includes important funding conditions to ensure efficient implementation of the program intended to protect workers’ and taxpayers’ interests. The legislation mandates that funds would be used solely for compensation of at-risk employees, and participating companies would be prevented from furloughing employees, outsourcing jobs, or using the funds for stock buybacks or dividend payments for the duration of the program. The funds could only be used to support U.S.-based employees, and provisions are included to protect the integrity of existing collective bargaining agreements.

The aerospace manufacturing and MRO industries are without question indispensable to our domestic economic health and national security, and assistance is needed to preserve the integrity of the industry and its highly-skilled workforce. **For all of these reasons, I urge you to cosponsor the Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Act.** To cosponsor, please contact Alexandra Menardy of Congressman Larsen's staff at Alexandra.Menardy@mail.house.gov or Katarina DeFilippo of Congressman Estes' office at Katarina.DeFilippo@mail.house.gov.

For more information, please contact IAM Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301)967-4575 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Martinez, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President