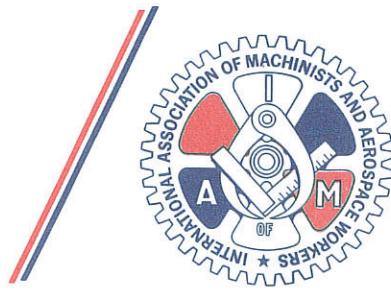


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

January 12, 2021

The Honorable Tom Reed
United States Representative
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3223

Dear Representative Reed,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), to request your assistance in saving nearly 40 jobs at Setterstix, Inc. in Cattaraugus, NY. Setterstix has operated in New York since 1938 and makes paper sticks used in brand lollypops, cotton swabs and other novelty items.

Setterstix announced its intent to cease production in Western New York on October 21, 2020. The company insists labor costs are not a factor in the plant shutdown, yet Setterstix will be moving their operation to Fountain Inn, South Carolina, a "Right to Work" state. Layoffs will begin early this year.

In the last two years, 20 businesses have filed Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifications (WARN) in your district and that does not account for the businesses with less than 50 people. To be fair, Covid-19 contributed to seven of those businesses lost, but the others have left or are leaving due to economic reasons.¹

Undoubtedly, your district is suffering from unemployment and your constituents continue to lose jobs due to the coronavirus. We need to work together to stop the hemorrhaging of jobs in Western New York and we would like to know if you have any legislative plans to help workers in your district?

Additionally, are there any incentives programs that make employers eligible for tax breaks or any plans to assist companies who shut down due to economic reasons?

We know we cannot save every company, but we are asking for your help in reaching out to Setterstix and have them reconsider their decision to move its facility to South Carolina.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President, IAMAW

¹ <https://labor.ny.gov/app/warn/>