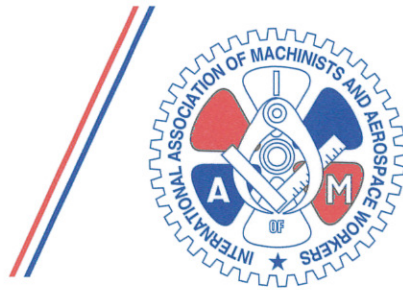


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

March 2, 2021

Dear Senator,

On behalf of 600,000 active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), I applaud President Biden, Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi for including numerous provisions in the American Rescue Plan recovery package which will greatly help IAM members and workers nationwide through this difficult time. **I write to strongly urge you to vote "Yes" on the American Rescue Plan recovery package and oppose any amendments to remove or weaken any of its worker-friendly provisions.**

The American Rescue Plan contains a number of key recovery provisions that the Machinists Union has supported since the outbreak of the deadly virus to help struggling workers nationwide. The package will provide a sorely-needed \$1,400 per person direct payment to help struggling families stay afloat while helping prime the pump of the U.S. economy. Given the sheer number of unemployed workers and uncertainty regarding when their jobs will return, the bill rightly increases the federal unemployment benefit to \$400 per week for an additional six months and provides COBRA subsidies to help laid off workers remain on their employer-sponsored health insurance plans.

The recovery package also includes vitally important aid to struggling industries which will allow employers to avoid furloughs and call back workers who have already been laid off. The package includes \$15 billion to extend the very successful airline Payroll Support Program (PSP) which will help keep tens of thousands of our members employed as the air travel industry gets back on its feet. The package also includes the Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Act which provides \$3 billion to help employers keep aerospace manufacturing workers on their payrolls and avoid additional furloughs. In addition, the package includes \$1.5 billion in funding for Amtrak and \$30 billion for public transit agencies to return furloughed workers to Amtrak and restore transit service to levels that will prevent future furloughs. These provisions will not only directly benefit tens of thousands of our members, but will ensure that these struggling industries are able to efficiently recover and restore transportation services to millions of Americans every day.

We also applaud the inclusion of the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act. This long-overdue pension relief legislation would help bolster the health of troubled multiemployer pension plans while protecting the earned benefits of retirees and active participants. The legislation will also serve to protect the integrity of healthy multiemployer plans and the strengthen the pension system overall.

In addition, we applaud lawmakers for including indispensable provisions to help our nation quickly recover from the public health and economic impacts of this historic pandemic. These provisions

include \$350 billion in aid to state and local governments, \$130 billion in K-12 education funding to help schools safely return to in-person learning, and \$84 billion in healthcare funding for the vaccination and testing process to stem the spread of the virus.

Unfortunately, a long-overdue provision to gradually increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour was stripped out of the package for procedural reasons. While we remain fully supportive of the rescue package, we will continue to advocate for an increase in the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.

For all of the above reasons, I strongly urge you to vote "Yes" on the American Rescue Plan recovery package and oppose any amendments to weaken this well-constructed recovery package.

For more information, please contact IAM Legislative and Political 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