

**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

April 15, 2021

Dear Representative,

On behalf of more than 600,000 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the largest defense union in the United States, **I am writing to urge you to sign on to an important, bipartisan letter in support of our nation's critical submarine programs.** The letter, led by Representatives Joe Courtney (D-CT), Rob Wittman (R-VA) and James Langevin (D-RI), respectfully asks the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee to support full funding for the sustained two-per-year build rate for the Virginia-class submarine, full funding for the Columbia-class submarine program, and funding to continue supplier development efforts in order to bolster our domestic submarine industrial base as they develop the Fiscal Year 2021 Defense appropriations bill. (Please see attached sign-on and dear colleague letters.)

Our nation's attack submarine fleet remains one of our most important strategic defense assets; however, the U.S. submarine fleet is projected to face the deepest shortfall below requirement of any ship type over the next 30 years. Continued, unwavering support of the Virginia-class submarine program is essential to our national security and to ensuring the United States maintains its dominance at sea. In addition, the program provides for thousands of high-skilled Machinists Union jobs and consistent support of the program is vital to maintaining this workforce and a strong domestic industrial base. For these reasons, the attached letter urges continued support for full funding of a two-per-year build rate for Virginia-class submarines.

Secondly, the letter urges the Chair and ranking member to support full funding for the Columbia-class submarine program. This program is the top acquisition priority of the U.S. Navy. Our members, and suppliers across the country, are working diligently to ensure program success. As the program ramps up, continued support from Congress is vitally important to ensure program performance and efficiency.

Finally, to ensure the success of these two indispensable submarine programs, we must continue to invest in our submarine industrial base and domestic supplier network. To this end, the letter requests that the FY22 defense appropriations bill includes a minimum of \$130 million to continue crucial supplier development efforts.

On behalf of the thousands of Machinists Union members proudly working in the shipbuilding industry across the United States, I urge you to sign on to this important

bipartisan letter. To sign on, please contact Sam Menchel in Congressman Courtney's office at sam.menchel@mail.house.gov. The deadline for signatures is Friday, April 23, 2021.

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, reading "Robert Martinez, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President