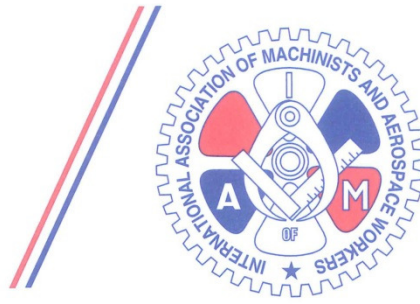


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

June 29, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chair
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Ranking Member
House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), the largest defense union in the United States, **I strongly urge you to support funding for two DDG-51 Flight III destroyers in Fiscal Year 2022.** The restoration of funding for a second DDG-51 destroyer would provide the Navy with the resources it needs to protect its military advantage at sea, bolster our domestic industrial base, and create high-quality jobs in the U.S. shipbuilding industry.

The DDG-51 destroyer fleet, built by thousands of Machinists Union members at Bath Iron Works and Huntington Ingles Industries, are a cornerstone of the U.S. Navy fleet and are vital to protecting our national security interests and economic interests. As such, the Navy has clearly stated their top unfunded priority for FY22 is restoration of the second DDG-51 destroyer. In our increasingly competitive global environment, nations like China are ramping up their shipbuilding efforts and dramatically increasing the number of ships in their national fleet. Now is certainly not the time to slacken our shipbuilding efforts as foreign fleets begin to outpace our own.

Consistent funding for the DDG-51 program is not only necessary to properly equip our U.S. Navy, but this continued funding is also needed to promote the health of the U.S. shipbuilding industry, our domestic industrial base, and the highly-skilled workforce on which it relies. Proper funding of this program will act to stabilize and strengthen the industrial base and its workforce. Each DDG-51 supports the jobs and sharpens the skills of more than 500 Machinists Union members at Bath Iron Works for a period of 5 years. A cut to this program is

a cut to this workforce, and if these highly-skilled workers are let go, they would be nearly impossible to replace.

The shipbuilding supply chain and its workforce must be protected from peaks and valleys in production in order to maintain its peerless efficiency and skill level over time. In 2018, the industry and its devoted workforce planned and committed to a five-year procurement rate of a minimum of two ships per year. For the sake of national security and our ability to produce the finest ships known to man, now is certainly not the time to change course.

On behalf of the thousands of Machinists Union members proudly working in the shipbuilding industry across the United States, I strongly urge you to support the restoration of funding for a second DDG-51 destroyer in FY 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Sincerely,

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

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President