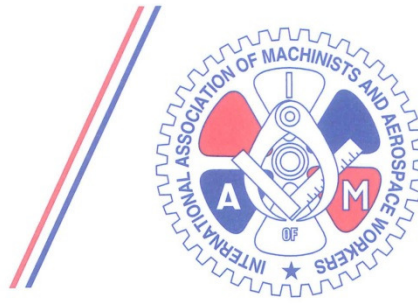


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

July 28, 2021

Dear Representative:

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 vote “yes” on a vitally important amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY22 introduced by Congressman Jared Golden (D-ME) to authorize a new multi-year procurement (MYP) contract for Flight III DDG-51 destroyers.** A new MYP contract for DDG-51 destroyers is essential to protect our nation’s military advantage at sea, bolster our domestic industrial base, and maintain the high-quality jobs and peerless skill level of the U.S. defense shipbuilding workforce.

The DDG-51 destroyer is a cornerstone of the U.S. Navy fleet and is vital to protecting our national security and economic interests. In order to efficiently and effectively manufacture these world class ships, the shipbuilding supply chain and its workforce must be protected from peaks and valleys in production. A new DDG-51 MYP contract will help ensure years of continued stability which the shipbuilding supply chain demands in order to maintain optimal productivity.

DDG-51 destroyers are proudly built by thousands of Machinists Union members at Bath Iron Works (BIW) in Bath, Maine. With the current MYP contract set to expire in FY22, there is no scheduled ship procurement plan to ensure enduring workforce stability and skill retention. A new MYP contract is needed to ensure consistent funding for the DDG-51 program in order to properly equip our U.S. Navy and to promote the health of the U.S. shipbuilding industry, our domestic industrial base, and the highly-skilled workforce on which it relies.

Given the length of time it takes to train a shipbuilder, a steady, consistent workload is needed. This need is particularly acute when considering current shipbuilder demographics across the country: a large number of shipbuilders are just entering the workforce and in need of apprenticeship, while at the same time, a large number of more senior shipbuilders are nearing retirement. Due to previous boom/bust cycles in the shipbuilding industry, there are fewer shipbuilders in the middle of their career to help train and mentor these apprentices and new entrants. The consistent workload derived from a MYP contract will help alleviate this problem and protect this indispensable workforce from encountering shortfalls in the future.

**On behalf of the thousands of Machinists Union members proudly working at BIW and in the shipbuilding industry across the United States, I strongly urge you to support Congressman Golden's vitally important amendment to authorize a new MYP contract for Flight III DDG-51 destroyers.**

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Martinez, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Robert Martinez, Jr.  
International President