

**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

July 20, 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 write to respectfully urge you to restore adequate funding for the procurement of small caliber ammunition for the U.S. Army in the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Defense Appropriations Bill.** Unfortunately, the Administration's FY22 Budget Request does not include adequate funding for small caliber ammunition and instead reflects severe reductions for 5.56MM, 7.62MM, and .50 Caliber ammunition.

This small caliber ammunition, which is of vital importance to our men and women in uniform, is proudly and expertly produced by Machinists Union members at the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant (LCAAP) in Independence, MO. The Administration's FY22 budget unwisely includes a 30% to 50% reduction in these munitions compared to the FY21 appropriated levels. The impact of these proposed cuts would be crippling to this highly-skilled workforce, reducing the current workforce of 1,700 by at least 450-550 employees. If these cuts are allowed to occur the Army would lose years of ammunition production expertise overnight. The decision to reduce this capacity would be highly inefficient, as the loss of workforce skills and production capacity would take years to rebuild when the Army decides to ramp up ammunition acquisition in subsequent years. This ill-advised proposal to reduce funding for these munitions will negatively affect the ability of Lake City Army Ammunition Plant to quickly and efficiently supply ammunition to our ground forces and could greatly handicap their ability to train and fight.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully urge you to restore the FY22 funding levels for small caliber ammunition to the levels appropriated in FY21. Consistent funding of this ammunition is critical to the training and mission success of our nation's warfighters, as well as our ability to efficiently domestically produce these vital munitions.

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