

**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

November 18, 2021

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the largest defense and aerospace union in the United States, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), I strongly urge you to support the inclusion of the vitally important amendment offered by Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) to strengthen Buy American domestic content requirements for major defense acquisition programs as you consider the FY22 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This sorely needed amendment would bolster U.S. economic and national security and create good, middle-class jobs across the country by gradually increasing Buy American domestic content requirements for major defense acquisition programs to 75 percent by 2029.

Buy American policies serve the public good by targeting our tax dollars for the purchase of American made products, thereby employing U.S. workers and putting our federal tax receipts to work here at home. For far too long we have neglected to properly consider the impact of defense procurement policy on our domestic industrial base and, consequently, on the U.S. economy. We as a nation need to act strategically when it comes to defense procurement. Not only do we need to supply our men and women in uniform with the best possible products and equipment, but we must also support the U.S. defense industrial base, including the small and mid-sized firms across America that constitute the supply chain for critical defense programs. We must understand that the foundation of our industrial base lies with the skills and abilities of the American worker. This amendment would help ensure that our tax dollars are used to support both the U.S. workforce and the firms who employ them.

Senator Duckworth's amendment, entitled "Enhanced Domestic Content Requirement for Major Defense Acquisition Programs," would dramatically strengthen the domestic content requirement for future major defense acquisition programs. Under the current Buy American requirement, an end item need only be made up of 55 percent domestic content for the whole item to be considered "Made in America". Senator Duckworth's language, which was included in the House-passed FY22 NDAA with bipartisan support, would gradually increase this percentage to 75 by January 1, 2029. This phased in approach will give the domestic defense industry the time and clear signal needed to create jobs by adjusting to the increased domestic content requirement.

For all of these reasons, I strongly urge you to support inclusion of Senator Duckworth's vitally important amendment to the FY22 NDAA to strengthen Buy American domestic content requirements for major defense acquisition programs.

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

Thank you,

Robert Martinez, Jr.

International President