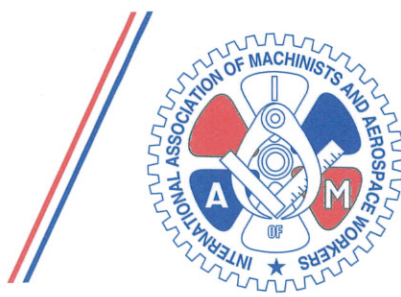


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

March 14, 2022

The Honorable Joe Biden  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the largest defense and aerospace union in the United States, I am writing to urge your Administration to fully invest in a robust F-35 Lightning II program in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2023 Department of Defense (DoD) budget request. This vitally important program provides for tens of thousands of high-quality Machinists Union jobs, supports more than 250,000 direct and indirect jobs nationwide, and is only 5<sup>th</sup> generation stealth fighter currently in production.

The F-35 is the most advanced and capable fighter aircraft the world has ever known. Continued investment and ramp up of this program is essential to our national security and ensuring the United States maintains its air dominance. In addition, the F-35 program provides for tens of thousands of high-skilled, Machinists Union jobs. Due to their hard work, highly tuned skills, and dedication to the F-35 program our members across the United States have secured some of the highest-quality, family-sustaining jobs this nation has to offer.

Thousands of Machinists Union members and their families across the country rely on these irreplaceable jobs supported by the program-- from the F-35 primary production facility in Ft Worth, Texas to its engine manufacturing facility in Middletown, Connecticut and across the program's vast network of suppliers from West Palm Beach, Florida to Northern, California. All told, the F-35 program supports more than 254,000 direct and indirect jobs nationwide. The program's network of suppliers includes more than 1,800 first tier suppliers across the country supporting high-skilled jobs and more than \$49 Billion in annual economic impact spread across all 50 states. Your Administration's strong budgetary support of the F-35 Lightning II program is necessary to support these workers, the companies that employ them, and the domestic aerospace supply chain they robustly reinforce.

The peerless capability of a strong F-35 fighter fleet is absolutely vital to maintaining our national security and the future of U.S. air dominance. In addition, 14 allies and partner nations across the globe rely on the F-35 program for their national defense and regional security. These allies and partner nations purchase F-35s in quantities that strengthen the program and leverage economies of scale in production, development and sustainment. These partners and allies follow our lead on investment in the program, so it is imperative that we continue to impress on our partner nations our continued, robust commitment to the F-35 program.

For the sake of national and global security, continued job creation, domestic supply chain resilience, and escalating program efficiency and capability; I respectfully urge your Administration to fully invest in a robust F-35 Lightning II program in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2023 Department of Defense (DoD) budget request.

For more information and to continue this important conversation, please contact IAM Political & Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575 or [hsolomon@iamaw.org](mailto:hsolomon@iamaw.org).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Martinez, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Martinez, Jr.  
International President