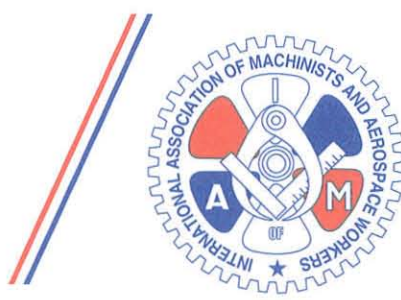


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (“Machinists Union”) represents 20,000 workers in our nation’s wood, pulp and paper industries, making us one of the largest unions representing woodworkers in the United States. **I am writing to you today to ask for your assistance to halt imports of all Russian and Belarusian hard- and soft woods, which could be used to finance Vladimir Putin’s violent invasion of the Ukraine.**

Our 600,000-member union stands in support of rejecting Russia’s violent military aggression towards Ukraine. That said, our union believes your administration’s ongoing series of sanctions against Russia and Belarus should also include banning all its wood products, which are often used for items such as furniture manufacturing.

Halting imports of Russian and Belarusian wood, because it is conflict timber and import is therefore illegal, would also cut off the financial gains used for furthering this unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. For example, it has been reported that in 2021, Russia was the third-largest source of U.S. hardwood plywood imports at about \$334 million. Lumber is a large economic engine for Russia, which exported about \$12 billion in wood products across the globe last year, according to publications that cited data from Wood Resource Quarterly.

Banning the import would also help increase American-made U.S. wood production. This domestic manufacturing should be done responsibly, in accordance with internationally-endorsed and recognized certifications, as PEFC, SFI and FSC and in compliance with all international obligations and commitments. These guidelines would promote more good-paying and decent jobs for woodworkers and forestry workers throughout the U.S.

Your administration has pushed for actions intended to stifle Russia’s economy. This includes executive orders and the bipartisan legislation Ending Importation of

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Russian Oil Act (H.R. 6968), and the Suspending Normal Trade Relations with Russia and Belarus Act (H.R. 7108), both of which you recently signed into law.

Some of our ally nations have implemented stiff sanctions specifically targeting Russian wood products, including the EU and Japan, which added the product to its list of dozens of banned goods just days ago.

Again, we encourage your administration's support for banning all Russian and Belarusian wood products. Our union recommends swift action through measures such as an executive order immediately halting all import of wood products from Russia and Belarus origin.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Martinez, Jr." in a cursive style.

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President

RM/vk