

**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Walsh
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Walsh:

On behalf of the 600,000 active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), I write to you today urging the extension of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program and allow the program to start accepting new applications. This DOL program has been a very important benefit for thousands of workers each year who are impacted by bad trade deals due to no fault of their own.

As you are aware, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, (omnibus) contained \$494 million in funding for the TAA program, and the IAM and the entire labor movement hopes these dollars will be put to work by the DOL as soon as possible to accept new TAA applications.

Thousands of hard-working people are counting on this benefit, which provides crucial assistance such as training and employment services. TAA has been an extremely useful benefit helping workers rebound from losing a job to trade.

The IAM knows firsthand, the vital benefits of TAA. Unfortunately, trade-affected union members have had to tap into TAA due to job losses. For example, TAA was there for workers at Caterpillar in Joliet, IL., when it was shuttered in 2018 and 2019, moving the work of about 600 IAM-represented workers to Mexico; and when Truck-Lite Co., closed a site in Falconer, N.Y., moving the work of more than 150 workers to places such as Mexico and China in early 2020, TAA was there for the displaced workers.

It has been reported that tens of thousands of workers are currently awaiting determinations of their petition for TAA support. That is not a good situation. These are hardworking people with families, and we should never leave workers without the safety nets like TAA unused.

Again – I urge DOL to start reviewing new TAA assistance applications, which helps workers and the many communities they support across this great nation.

Sincerely,

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President