



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, MD  
20772-2687

(301) 967-4500  
golAM.org



Office of the International President

May 20, 2026

The Honorable Mike Kehoe  
Missouri Office of the Governor  
Capitol Building, Room 218  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102

Dear Governor Kehoe:

On behalf of nearly 300 members of IAM Union (International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers) Local 2782 currently locked out by Leonardo DRS in West Plains, Missouri, I write to respectfully request your assistance in preserving the integrity and future of this highly skilled workforce.

These highly skilled defense system manufacturing workers recently voted to reject Leonardo DRS's substandard contract offer at which point the company left the bargaining table and locked out the workforce halting operations at the facility. **We ask that you stand with these Missouri workers and urge the company to immediately end their lockout and return to the bargaining table to negotiate a good faith agreement commensurate with the skills and dedication of this workforce.**

IAM Union members at Leonardo DRS's proudly manufacture fire support systems, battlefield surveillance equipment, fuel and water distribution systems, and force protection technologies critical to the U.S. military. The facility and its workforce produce a wide variety of battlefield ready equipment indispensable to U.S. military efforts across the globe. Our members have made innumerable sacrifices throughout their careers to ensure our men and women in uniform have the tools necessary to safely and effectively complete their mission to protect our national security.

Our members at Leonardo DRS in West Plains are deeply disappointed and frustrated with the company's substandard contract proposal and forced lockout of the workforce. Our members rightly believe the compensation package offered by the company is not adequate given the recent economic trends of high inflation and strong demand for their product.

It is our strong belief that our members at Leonardo DRS deserve better. The IAM Union Local 2782 is ready and willing to return to the bargaining table to negotiate an adequate contract that will ensure the necessary skilled workforce is available to continue producing vitally important battlefield equipment for the U.S. military.

**We respectfully ask you to join us in supporting this highly skilled workforce and urge the company to end its lockout of the workforce and promptly return to the bargaining table to negotiate an equitable settlement that respects the skill and dedication of its workers.**

Please contact IAM National Legislative and Political Director Hasan Solomon at (202) 420-4902 or [hsolomon@iamaw.org](mailto:hsolomon@iamaw.org) to schedule a meeting with our team to discuss how we can work together to support these workers.

Thank you, and we look forward to working with you on this vitally important issue.

Sincerely,

Brian Bryant  
IAM International President