

**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

July 12, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of 600,000 members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), one of America's largest and most powerful labor unions, I rise above a small, but vocal, group of naysayers to urge you to continue to remain strong and stay in the presidential race.

In the IAM, and at least most of the labor movement, we know what loyalty looks like. We hear promises from politicians all the time, because they know that our members' votes make the difference, especially in close elections like this one. When you told us you would be the most pro-union president in American history, you meant it. And you have delivered. Promises made, promises kept.

To put it simply, unions are strong again. You have welcomed us and working people into the halls of power like no president before, and the results are finally tilting the scales from corporate greed back to working people. Good jobs are coming home. Our members are negotiating record wage increases and winning strikes against greedy employers.

For the first time in decades, we have an Administration that has leveled the playing field for workers trying to organize. The IAM is one of the fastest growing unions in the labor movement because we have a President who goes toe to toe with corporations on behalf of working people. You have appointed the most pro-union National Labor Relations Board in history, and it is going after illegal corporate union-busting that intimidates workers from exercising their rights. American workers finally have a president who unequivocally stands with them—and you even became the first sitting President to walk a picket line.

In the IAM, we know who saved hundreds of thousands of our members' jobs in the airline and aerospace jobs in the COVID-19 recovery. It was the leadership of you, President Biden, who stood with us to demand that we put money in the pockets of everyday Americans struggling to get by. Then, you strengthened Buy American regulations that have helped create millions of jobs, including nearly 800,000 in manufacturing. Your championing of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the American Rescue Plan, are literally rebuilding our nation and setting America up to lead the industries of tomorrow.

You reinstated job security protections for our Service Contract Act members, many of whom serve our military, and demanded federal contractors pay higher wages. Federal funding to modernize manufacturing, such as for IAM members at Voith Hydro in Pennsylvania and

Cleveland-Cliffs in Ohio, is setting the stage for an American manufacturing renaissance. Not to mention, you helped save 83 pension plans covering more than 1 million workers and retirees.

There are those saying, without acknowledging that you have answered the call for working people at every turn, that they don't believe you can do the job anymore. In the IAM, we value seniority. We believe that the best indicator of what someone will do in the future is what they've done in the past. And that those who have proven they can do the job – and who have done it extraordinarily well – should continue to do so.

Your second term has the potential to build on all of our success and fundamentally transform our nation. Together, we truly can build back the middle class from the bottom up and the middle out. And as you always rightly say, unions built the middle class.

Mr. President, the IAM isn't going to let anyone attack the most pro-union president in American history without a fight. You are the only candidate who has beaten Donald Trump, and we're ready to help you do it again. You still have more work to do – let's finish the job!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Byrd", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

International President
International Association of Machinists and
Aerospace Workers