



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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February 5, 2021

Hon. Peter DeFazio, Chairman
Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Sam Graves, Ranking Member
Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman DeFazio, Ranking Member Graves, and Members of the Committee:

We write to you as the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), a labor union representing 90,000 members, including 20,000 aircraft manufacturing professionals working at The Boeing Company, Spirit AeroSystems, Triumph Group, GE Aviation, and ATI Metals, among other firms. As the economic fallout of the pandemic continues to unfold and workers and IFPTE members throughout the U.S. aviation manufacturing industry face mounting layoffs, we urge you to include the Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Act (H.R. 553) in the COVID-19 reconciliation bill.

So far, the pandemic's impact on the aviation manufacturing industry has resulted in the loss of over 100,000 aerospace manufacturing jobs. The continuing loss of revenue for the industry further threatens the jobs of the high-skill workers in this strategic high-value export-oriented national industry that is a core part of our defense industrial base.

Although many industry observers forecast a slow and painful recovery for the aviation manufacturing industry over the next 5 years, we know that timely action from Congress and smart policies can make a critical difference in providing economic security to workers and helping our economy by maintaining employment in these high-quality domestic manufacturing jobs. Furthermore, aviation manufacturing is a critical segment of our economy and these are critical jobs that will be necessary to drive the post-COVID economic recovery and our nation's global economic competitiveness in the years ahead.

The Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Act, sponsored by Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA) and Representative Ron Estes (R-KS), addresses the crisis our industry faces by creating a temporary federal payroll support program that would cover 50% of compensation costs for up to 25% of an industry employer's workforce that is at risk of furlough or layoff due to the pandemic. The bill includes provisions that prohibit funds from being used for stock buybacks, dividend payments, or executives. It mandates that funds be directed to support workers based in the U.S., that workers supported through this program cannot be laid off or furloughed, and that collective bargaining agreements

cannot be abrogated. This bipartisan legislation reflects the urgent concerns of key stakeholders in the industry and has the support of industry employers and associations throughout the supply chain as well as IFPTE and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM).

Therefore, we request you to include the Aviation Manufacturing Jobs Protection Act in the reconciliation bill.

We thank you for considering our request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact IFPTE legislative representative Faraz Khan at 301-275-6038.

Sincerely,



Paul Shearon
President



Matthew Biggs
Secretary-Treasurer/Legislative Director

