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

March 4, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

I am writing on behalf of more than 600,000 active and retired members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), to request your assistance in saving 600 IAM-represented manufacturing jobs and an additional 400 non-represented support workers at GKN Aerospace in Hazelwood, Missouri. On February 10, 2022, company leadership announced their plan to completely shut down this aerospace defense manufacturing facility by the end of 2023 with layoffs to begin in mid-2022, leaving these 1,000 hard-working men and women out of work and severely impacting the local economy.

For generations this highly-skilled workforce has proudly manufactured pivotal components to Department of Defense (DoD) programs. These workers currently produce aircraft parts for a wide variety of DoD platforms, including the F-15, F-18A, CH-53 and Advanced Programs. The facility was previously owned by Boeing Corporation, but was purchased by GKN in 2001. Then in 2018, GKN was purchased by British investment firm Melrose Industries. Now, less than 4 years after purchasing the facility, GKN's parent company Melrose Industries has decided to turn its back on these highly-skilled workers and end production in the area.

The 600 highly skilled IAM-represented production workers and 400 support workers at this facility, many of whom are veterans of the armed services, have devoted their lives to proudly producing world –class aerospace components. Now these 1,000 workers are at risk of being permanently laid-off in the coming months. That is 1,000 hard-working men and women, along with their families, who will abruptly lose their livelihood by the end of 2023, if we are not successful in saving this manufacturing facility.

In addition to the impact on these 1,000 families, the impact of this planned closure on the aerospace supply chain and surrounding community must also be taken into account. Industry analysts estimate each job in aerospace parts manufacturing supports an additional 1.8 indirect jobs across the supply chain and 1.6 induced jobs in the community. That is a total of 3.4 additional jobs supported by each job in aerospace manufacturing. Therefore, when you consider the indirect and induced jobs supported by this facility, we are looking at an estimated total of nearly 5,000 jobs loss in this community and across the aerospace supplier network.

The workers at this GKN facility in Hazelwood supply our men and women in uniform with precision aircraft parts needed to safely and effectively complete their mission of ensuring our national security. Together their finely tuned skills and undeniable dedication are a key piece of our domestic aerospace supply chain. If this facility is allowed to close and this highly skilled workforce is disassembled, it will be a huge loss to our domestic manufacturing capabilities which would be very difficult and costly to recreate.

The IAM is ready and willing to work with all parties to keep this facility running and maintain this essential workforce in the state of Missouri. We respectfully ask you to meet with our team in order to discuss ways we can work together to save these jobs at this vitally important aerospace defense manufacturing facility.

To schedule a meeting to discuss, or if you have any questions, please contact Legislative & Political Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

Robert Martinez, Jr.

International President