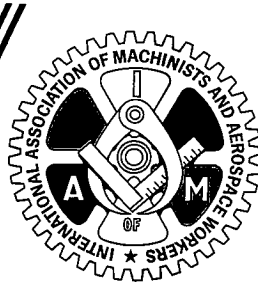


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

GL-3 Legislative

August 2, 2007

Subj: Panama/Peru Free Trade Agreements

Dear Representative:

We are writing on behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) to express our opposition to the Panama and Peru Free Trade Agreements. While we applaud the efforts to improve worker rights, these agreements fall short of satisfying the concerns we have repeatedly raised with respect to a number of issues. In view of the significant losses that IAM members continue to suffer as the result of bad trade agreements, we give especially close scrutiny to any new proposals.

In general, we have stressed that labor chapters in any trade agreement must unequivocally and unambiguously include all core and other appropriate labor standards explicitly encompassed by the International Labor Organization (ILO). Without such explicit incorporation of ILO Conventions and accompanying jurisprudence, we fear that the Administration will apply an unacceptably narrow interpretation of the agreement. Other concerns in this chapter include matters relating to implementation, enforcement, and compliance.

We are well aware of this Administration's dismal record when it comes to workers' rights. For example, it has refused to issue a trade complaint against China for worker rights violations described fully in AFL-CIO submissions. Given its past record, we fear that the Administration will simply ignore even the most egregious labor violations.

The IAM also has questions and concerns regarding the procurement, investment, and service chapters.

As the IAM has repeatedly argued, we must undertake a strategic review of all past trade agreements before engaging in any new agreements. IAM members have suffered the loss of thousands of jobs due to bad trade agreements, reflected by the out-dated, flawed NAFTA model. Now is the time to put together a real and meaningful trade agenda that puts workers first and will actually lead to the creation of jobs here at home. While, as mentioned, some of the provisions of the Panama and Peru Trade agreements represent a positive step, we simply need to do much more. U.S. workers who continue to support the backbone of our Nation's economy deserve no less.

We call upon you to vote against the Panama/Peru Free Trade Agreements. Please call the IAM's Legislative and Political Director Tom Trotter at 301-967-4575, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President