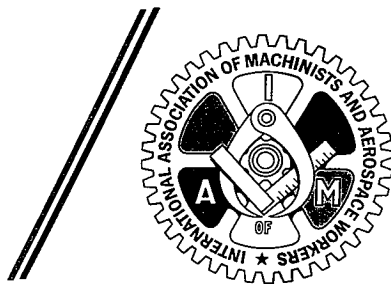


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

July 29, 2010

RE: HR 5781: National Aeronautics and Space
Administration Authorization Act of 2010

Dear Representative,

I write to express the strong support of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010, HR 5781. We believe that this bipartisan effort by the House Science and Technology Committee represents a viable way forward for NASA and America's human space flight program. The legislation significantly closes the gap between the end of the Space Shuttle program and its replacement program, the effect of which will mean continued employment for thousands of highly skilled blue collar workers at the space centers throughout the U.S.

HR 5781 provides for an additional Space Shuttle launch, dependent upon a thorough safety review; supports the continuation of the International Space Station until 2020; continues development of the safest and most advanced manned space vehicle, the Orion spacecraft; accelerates the development of a new heavy lift launch system that will enable missions beyond low earth orbit; makes a significant investment in space research; and, rebuilds the long neglected infrastructure of the Kennedy Space Center. Additionally, HR 5781 provides funding for transition assistance for workers and communities impacted by the end of the Space Shuttle program.

America's human space flight program has long been an incubator of new and innovation technologies and products, and, absent an industrial policy, NASA has been an important generator of new manufacturing jobs. HR 5781 will preserve America's leadership in space exploration while preserving many of the high skill jobs critical to NASA's success.

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative and Political Director Matthew McKinnon at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President