

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Machinists Denounce F-22 Funding Cut

Washington, D.C. , April 06, 2009 – The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) today denounced the decision by U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates to end funding for the F-22, the next-generation fighter aircraft that would have assured U.S. air superiority for years to come.

“Not only is the decision to cut funding for the F-22 shortsighted militarily, but our economy can ill afford to disperse the thousands of aerospace jobs required to design, construct and maintain aircraft of this caliber,” said IAM President Tom Buffenbarger. “We simply cannot afford to cannibalize our national defense to repair damage caused by reckless financial institutions and greed-crazed corporate executives.”

Thousands of Connecticut workers, many represented by the IAM, produce and assemble the F-119 engine for the F-22 Raptor program. In addition to jobs directly related to production and assembly, as many as 25,000 jobs nationwide are indirectly supported by the program.

“The need for long-term air superiority is no less important than the need for short-term economic stimulus,” declared IAM Vice President Rich Michalski, who oversees the union’s aerospace operations. “The benefits of the F-22 program extend far beyond the aircraft itself. It creates and supports thousands of good-paying jobs when we need them most, and nearly all technological advances in the commercial aviation sector have their genesis in taxpayer-supported military programs like the F-22.”

The IAM is among the largest industrial trade unions in North America , representing nearly 700,000 active and retired members in dozens of industries. For more information about the IAM, visit www.goiam.org.



IAM District 26 Media Advisory

☆☆☆☆☆☆ Representing Connecticut, Rhode Island & southeast Massachusetts ☆☆☆☆☆☆



For Immediate Release -- Contact District 26 ADBR Jim Parent at 860-828-0359 or 860-250-3697

CT Workers' Message to Obama: "Don't Cut the F-22; We Need Our Jobs!" Machinists Union Urges Continuation of Program

Monday, April 6, 2009 Kensington, CT – On behalf of thousands of Connecticut workers who work on the F-22 fighter aircraft program, International Association of Machinists District 26 is **urging the Obama administration to continue the F-22 program**. Defense Secretary Robert Gates today made public his recommendation that the program be abruptly ended – a **move that could cost thousands of Connecticut jobs**.

Just two weeks ago, United Technologies President Louis Chenevert stated that the cancellation of the F-22 **could cost Connecticut 2,000 – 3,000 jobs**, including cuts at Pratt & Whitney, Hamilton Sundstrand and at subcontractors to those companies. Connecticut **unemployment** is currently at **7.4%** and climbing; cancelling the F-22 is a **disastrous decision** for Connecticut manufacturing workers and their families. With more than 25,000 F-22 jobs in 40 states on the line, Gate's recommendation is the exact opposite of the economic stimulus the Obama administration has advocated.

Assistant Directing Business Representative Jim Parent said: **"The fight is on – for good jobs that sustain thousands of families in this state and across the country**. We're hopeful that the President and the Congress will reject this recommendation, and keep America working. Defense Secretary Gates does not get it – **you cannot dismantle the skill base needed to produce this aircraft, and then ramp up a year or two later for the next program**. Once those skills are gone, it will be tough if not impossible to re-assemble them. **If the nation needs the F-35, it needs to continue the F-22.**"

Parent continued: "It's not just the F-22. **Gates also wants to cancel the C-17**, despite Air Force requests for additional aircraft. Pratt workers make the engine for that aircraft as well, and the end of that program just adds to the impact on jobs."

The Machinists Union in Connecticut is urging members and their families, and all Connecticut residents, to **contact the White House** on this urgent issue to the future of our state. People can send a message to President Obama at www.whitehouse.gov/contact/ The Union will be working with the Connecticut Congressional delegation to ensure that the White House understands the importance of these program to our state's future.

###