



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
District Lodge 66
1307 Market Street
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Union Herald Article from the desk of:



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TPP Watch:

After many months of waiting to see what the text of the TPP was going to look like, it was finally released. This “Free Trade” agreement that was negotiated behind closed doors, and kept out of the public eye is available for review. Let’s take a look at what things are wrong with this bill...

1. **Currency Manipulation.** The current text does not contain enforceable currency manipulation rules. Countries that intentionally devalue their currency can cheat U.S. Manufacturers and undermine any benefits from tariff reductions. Enforcing currency manipulation rules could add as many as 5.8 million jobs.
2. **The TPP lets foreign corporations bypass U.S. law.** The current text allows multinational companies to challenge U.S. laws, regulations, and safeguards through a provision called investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS). Through ISDS, foreign investors can seek compensation from the United States for enforcing regulations and safeguards designed to protect our working families.

These companies are currently using ISDS to attack policies and laws in Australia, Canada, Egypt, Peru, and more.

3. **The TPP allows climate change to go unchecked.** The current text does not contain any enforceable climate change commitments. It does nothing to discourage U.S. manufacturers from moving their factories to TPP countries with weak climate regulations.
4. **The TPP doesn't strengthen international labor rights protections.** There are well-documented labor problems in at least four TPP countries (Mexico, Vietnam, Brunei, and Malaysia), but the administration has not committed to requiring all countries to be in compliance with international labor standards before they get benefits under the agreement. Worker rights have not been fully enforced under existing free trade agreements.
5. **The TPP allows state-owned enterprises to continue to undermine small business.** The current text doesn't adequately protect small businesses from the predatory tactics of foreign state-owned and state subsidized companies. Often these companies benefit from government support and drive their American competitors out of business or put pressure on our companies to ship American jobs overseas.
6. **The TPP's weak rules of origin benefit China and other non-TPP countries.** The rules of origin in the current TPP text are weak and allow China and other nonparticipating countries to reap the agreement's benefits without having to follow its rules. The auto content requirement allows the majority of the auto content to be Chinese and manufactured outside the trade agreement's rules. This has the effect of promoting jobs in China while destroying U.S. auto supply-chain jobs.
7. **The TPP takes America out of "Buy American".** The current TOO text will require the U.S. government to treat Vietnamese, Malaysian and other TOO firms exactly the same as U.S. firms for many purchasing decisions, even when "Buy American" rules apply. This will send our taxpayer dollars overseas and kill U.S. jobs.
8. **The TPP gives global banks even more power.** The current text could make it harder for countries facing an economic crisis to stabilize their economies. Not only can large international banks still sue countries in crisis using the "prudential exception," the TPP expands the rights of the international banks to use ISDS to challenge bank regulations in front of private tribunals. This gives them more power and makes another global financial meltdown more likely, not less.
9. **The TPP makes affordable medicines harder to find.** Quality, affordable and accessible health care is a human right and trade policy should not interfere with public health care choices, nor should it threaten public health. The current text threatens access to affordable medicines by including new monopoly rights for pharmaceutical companies, delaying competition by affordable generics, and allowing companies more opportunities to interfere with government cost-saving efforts.

You can get the entire text of this job destroying agreement online at:

<https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements/trans-pacific-partnership/tpp-full-text>

Once again, I will ask the readers of this article to contact their congressional representative. Go to www.senate.gov, and www.house.gov to find your congressional representative and their contact information. Remaining silent on this will only tell your representatives that you don't care, or that you approve the current text. Call your representative today and tell them to reject this TPP unless it is drastically reformed.

Machinists Union Announces Bob Martinez to Succeed Tom Buffenbarger as International President

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) announced that General Vice President Bob Martinez, Jr. will succeed current International President Tom Buffenbarger, who steps down on Jan.1, 2016 after a 45-year career that spans service as a local IAM Shop Steward to more than 18 years as the IAM's top elected official.



The announcement follows a vote by the union's 11-member Executive Council, in accordance with the IAM Constitutional requirement for senior elected officials to leave office at age 65. Martinez, a 35-year IAM veteran will serve the remainder of Buffenbarger's current 4-year term, which concludes July 1, 2017. "There have been 13 International Presidents since the Machinists Union was founded in 1888," said Buffenbarger. "The strength of this union has always been its ability to cultivate leaders who respect and reflect the values and goals of our membership. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of that heritage and I have full confidence that Bob Martinez is the right person to carry on that proud tradition."

A native of Texas, Martinez served in the U.S. Navy before joining the IAM in 1980 as an aircraft assembler at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in Ft. Worth, TX. Rising through the ranks, Martinez held numerous positions at the local and district level before assuming the office of Southern Territory Vice President in July 2003. In addition to his current position as Vice President in charge of IAM Headquarters, Martinez serves as a Trustee of the IAM National Pension Fund, and is Vice President on the National Executive Board of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA). Buffenbarger's tenure as International President was marked by a commitment to organizing, financial stability and a recognition that diversity in local and senior leadership is a key to remaining relevant in the modern workplace. The current IAM Executive Council is now among the most diverse in the labor movement, including men and women of African American, Hispanic, Native American and European heritage. International President Buffenbarger will be missed in his role, but I have confidence that Martinez's leadership skills will serve the IAM well.

DISTRICT LODGE 66 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Once again, it is time for the District's Annual Scholarship Program as approved at the November District Lodge meeting by your Delegates to District Lodge 66. It is open to all High School Seniors that are children of any IAMAW Lodge that are affiliated with District Lodge No. 66. This includes Lodges 21, 1030, 1115, 1771 and 2191.

There are Two (2) \$750 scholarships annually, one for a female student and one for a male student. If we do not have one of each, then it will be given to two female or male students. Only seniors in High School that are the children of Machinist Union members and those that are seeking post high school education are eligible.

An essay must be written and must be based on how Unions have been important to your family and your community to be considered for the Scholarship. Information should be gathered from your parents or relatives and the struggles they may have faced in their jobs. The essays must be at least 500 words in length. Please note: Essays copied directly from Labor History Books, encyclopedias, etc., or essays where the material is mostly plagiarized will NOT BE ACCEPTED. After a review of the competency of each essay, a selection process will follow and the winner will be the essay that best meets the requirements stated above. The scholarship must be used beginning in the year of the award and in consecutive semesters. The first half of the scholarship will be paid directly to the school in the first semester and the second half will also be paid directly to the school in the next consecutive semester. Selections of essay winners will take place no later than the April Meeting of the District Lodge. The essays must be in at the District Lodge 66 office at 1307 Market St., La Crosse WI by **March 1, 2016**. Scholarships not used in consecutive semesters beginning in the year of the award will be forfeited. See our full ad with all of the Competition rules elsewhere in this month's Union Herald.

District Lodge 66

The District Lodge Delegates gathered for our regular monthly meeting on Monday November 16th. Along with the regular business of the Lodge, the Delegates decided again to sponsor our District Lodge 66 Annual Scholarship Program, which awards \$750.00 to two children of District Lodge Members. The Delegates also approved sending a holiday bonus of \$100 to the District's Administrative Assistant, Carla Easterday. The Delegates also approved sending \$25 gift cards to those members of the District who have been out of work past their Short Term Disability.

I am pleased to announce we have ratified a new Collective Bargaining Agreement with our members of Local Lodge 1771 working at Northern Engraving in Sparta. There is a good working relationship with the Northern Engraving management team, and we will move forward with a good relationship for the future.

Chart has massive layoff

It is very unfortunate that we have received the news that I am sure all of you have seen. Chart Energy has laid off more than 70 employees on December 9 with another batch due

to be laid off later this month to total 105 employees. It is with a heavy heart that I write this. Unfortunately, this business is tied to natural gas. When oil prices drop, people buy oil. When oil prices increase, people go away from oil, and invest in natural gas. While most people see the price at the pump decrease as a good thing, and are more likely to take the long drive to see relatives that they wouldn't have done a year or more ago, we here at District 66 see it as a sign of our members facing strife as the uncertainty of their job's stability. This latest layoff was the result of one order from one customer being pushed back. There simply isn't any work to do as this was a large order slated to begin production on the 9th.

We have seen several layoffs throughout 2015 for Chart employees. Senator Baldwin's, and Congressman Kind's offices have also reached to this office to see if there is any assistance they can lend. As we learn more about the programs that may assist these members, we will keep them informed.

Happy Holidays

Here is hoping you and your family a Joyful and Happy Holiday Season, whichever holiday it is you may be celebrating this season. I want to thank all the delegates for their service throughout the year, and our Administrative Assistant Carla Easterday for all she does for myself to assist me in my job, and all the locals in the District. I also want to thank my Fiancé Tasha Kuchar for her love and support throughout the year. Her support at home keeps me going, and she keeps the house out of disaster mode when long hours keep me away. Love you Tasha. Without you to come home to at the end of the day, my life would truly be empty.

Happy Holiday season to Everyone! Until next month...