



International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

CONGRESS MUST PRIORITIZE TRADE THAT BENEFITS U.S. WORKERS

The IAM is urging Congress to be engaged in the shaping of trade policy that benefits the U.S. workers first. Trade should be equal and fair, offering the American workforce the chance for job growth and strengthening. We've witnessed bad trade deals like NAFTA and CAFTA, which resulted in the net loss of U.S. jobs. Such unfair policies should not be repeated going forward, and it's Congress' duty to ensure protections are in place. The U.S. constitution gives Congress the power over trade activity with foreign countries.

In general, all trade deals should include binding and enforceable labor and environmental standards, even matching current U.S. laws. Labor standards, for example, must be about actual and well-defined rights, including collective bargaining.

What is happening today?

Negotiations are underway on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, a U.S. initiated effort to solidify trade relations with nations in the Asia-Pacific region. The IPEF, led by the Department of Commerce and the United States Trade Representative (USTR), is a trade strategy with 14 countries. In addition to the U.S., that includes Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Fiji.

Some of the involved IPEF nations include those in the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The U.S. eventually withdrew from the multinational trade agreement.

The IPEF includes four pillars: fair and resilient trade; supply chain resilience; infrastructure clean energy, and decarbonization; and tax and anti-corruption.

The IAM is actively monitoring IPEF with an eye on benefits for the American workforce. The IAM seeks an IPEF that includes binding and enforceable labor provisions that will benefit and protect U.S. workers, and help thwart the historic trend of corporations moving good-paying union jobs overseas.

The IPEF is not a traditional trade agreement, and therefore does not require ratification by U.S. Congress. The USTR and Commerce, however, have reached out to Congress for its input on the proposed framework.

Again – the IAM welcomes the chance for fair and equal trade policy that offers U.S., workers the chance to compete.