

International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-2687

Area Code 301-967-4500

OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

May 7, 2018

Dear Representative,

During the upcoming Farm Bill debate in the House, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) **urges Members to OPPOSE the Virginia Foxx and Danny Davis anti-sugar farmer and sugar worker amendment.**

This amendment singles out U.S. sugar farmers and would take away their non-recourse loans while leaving those loans in place for 27 other agricultural commodities. It would also mandate additional foreign, subsidized sugar to be imported into the U.S., which would drive down prices to 1980's levels resulting in the loss of thousands of U.S. jobs.

U.S. sugar farmers and sugar workers deserve a level playing field and should not be forced to compete with farmers subsidized and supported by foreign governments whether by direct loans, cash incentives or foreign ethanol programs.

U.S. sugar policy supports good union jobs in rural and urban areas of the country. The U.S. Congress should not support outsourcing these jobs to countries with low labor and environmental standards.

Candy companies did not move out of the U.S. because sugar prices were too high, they moved to pay lower wages. In Pennsylvania they paid almost \$19 an hour with benefits, the same factory moved to Mexico and pays about 50 cents an hour. The U.S. is the fifth largest sugar producer and the third largest sugar importer in the world. The sugar industry supports 142,000 jobs and nearly \$20 billion in economic activity in the United States.

For these reasons and more, I urge you to **VOTE NO on the Foxx/Danny Davis anti-sugar farmer and worker amendment!**

For more information, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at 301-967-4575 or hsolomon@iamaw.org.

Thank you,

Robert Martinez, Jr.
International President

RM:mls