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**Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO • 815 16th Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006**

**Phone: 202-508-3705 • Fax: 202-508-3706 • Email: [jhart@metaltrades.org](mailto:jhart@metaltrades.org) • [www.metaltrades.org](http://www.metaltrades.org)**

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July 29, 2020

United States Senator Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: IAMAW / General Dynamics Bath Iron Works Strike

Dear Senator Collins,

I write to you in support of the men and women who comprise IAMAW Local Lodge S6 of Bath, Maine, all of whom are currently on strike against their employer General Dynamics at Bath Iron Works.

As you are aware, the shipbuilders employed by the General Dynamics Company at Bath Iron Works are engaged in a strike that is into its sixth week. The 4,300 dedicated workers of IAMAW Local Lodge S6, continue their struggle to protect their livelihoods against company demands that dictate the acceptance of a proposal that would provide for cheap and exploitative outsourcing of out of state labor to perform work on US Navy Government Shipbuilding contracts awarded to General Dynamics at Bath Iron Works.

Referring to quotes attributed to you in a press account of your recent visit to the Local Lodge S6 Bath Iron Works picket line, I am saddened to say that it appears that you have turned your back on workers in your state by intimating that your sole job and responsibility as your state's senior Senator in regards to this dispute is to ensure that, *"BIW gets contracts, that we have an adequate shipbuilding budget and we continue to pursue the goal of a 355 ship Navy"*

By precluding the use of your office's considerable influence to get the parties back to the bargaining table and help in settling this damaging work stoppage, is both wrong and insulting to the shipbuilders at Bath Iron Works. Your constituents at Bath Iron Works are currently being forced by one of Americas most profitable companies to subsist upon a \$155.00 per week in strike assistance and endure the loss of healthcare benefits during a time of a crippling global health pandemic.

Workers in Maine, rely upon your considerable voice and oversight to be heard and felt not only in the halls of Congress, but within the administration and agencies that directly influence the daily lives and well-being of all Mainers and their families.

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As the President of the Metal Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, I respectfully request on behalf of our 17 International Union affiliates who represent America's premier shipbuilding workforce, that you use the resources available to your good office to combat against corporate greed and the union busting agenda of the General Dynamics Company, whose untenable actions threaten the national security mission of our country and the social fabric of the Pine Tree State.

I respectfully appeal to you to standup for the working families of Maine by defending and fighting for the good paying, high skilled jobs at Bath Iron Works that are currently being endangered by the acts of a crass and greedy company.

Our nation's shipbuilders look to you to lead the way in ensuring fairness in the workplace. Should you have any questions regarding this communication, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I am hopeful that you will engage in a more direct way to help resolve this unacceptable labor dispute that is causing insufferable harm to the men and women of IAMAW Local Lodge S6.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Hart".

James Hart  
President

Cc: MTD Executive Council  
MTD Key Representatives  
IAMAW President Robert Martinez  
IAMAW Ex VP Brian Bryant  
IAMAW Local S6 President Chris Wiers