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April 30, 2020

Senator Lamar Alexander  
United States Senate  
455 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Wage Grade and salaried workers at Arnold Air Force Base, Tullahoma Tennessee

Dear Senator Alexander,

Section 3610 of the "CARES Act" authorizes federal agencies to use their funds to modify contracts in order to reimburse costs incurred by a contractor to provide paid leave to employees who cannot work due to facility closures or other restrictions. This provision enables agencies to keep their contractor workforce in a ready state to return to the job when that becomes possible.

There was no single law maker in Congress more instrumental in the passage of Section 3610 of the "Cares Act" than yourself. On behalf of all Metal Trades workers throughout our nation, please accept our heartfelt thanks for the fine job that you and your staff did in defending the interests of American workers.

However, the United States Air Force chooses not to utilize this important provision of the "Cares Act" law. Their resistance in employing the above referenced provisions has resulted in the unpaid absence of approximately 800 wage grade and salaried workers at Arnold Air Force Base in Tullahoma, Tennessee, due to a COVID-19 mandated base closure order issued by USAF Colonel and base commander Jeff Geraghty.

As you are well aware, this important provision of the "Cares Act" was meant to provide pay continuity to help mitigate the economic fallout from COVID-19 for the employees of federal contractors, their families, and surrounding communities. Your assistance in facilitating a return to work at full (retroactive) pay status for all affected employees would be greatly appreciated, as it will serve to address the unnecessary financial hardship imposed upon workers by Air Force command at Arnold Air Force base.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With warmest regards; I remain

Sincerely,

James Hart  
President