INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA General President

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The Honorable Jim Inhofe Chairman Senate Committee on Armed Services 228 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed Ranking Member Senate Committee on Armed Services 228 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable Adam Smith Chairman House Committee on Armed Services 2216 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
Ranking Member
House Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Inhofe, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Reed, Ranking Member Thornberry:

As you embark on conference negotiations for the Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we urge you to include three main Teamster priorities in the final legislative package.

First, we ask you to include language from the Senate-passed bill prohibiting the use of tax dollars from supporting Chinese rail car and bus companies. We strongly encourage you to include the Senate-passed language (Section 6015 in the final bill), to ensure that this prohibition applies to both rail cars and buses. As the proud representatives of American workers who both manufacture and operate thousands of American-made buses, we believe that American companies must be allowed to compete on an even playing field, free from Chinese interference into our transit system and manufacturing base.

Second, we urge you to include Section 1117 of the House-passed bill into the final conference report. This broad bipartisan language would direct OMB to reclassify 9-1-1 dispatchers and call-takers as "Protective Services Occupations" within the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) catalog. This cost-free provision would give these first responders the honor of the employment classification that they deserve. This language also includes the same reclassification provision as H.R. 1629, the 911 SAVES Act, which has 103 bipartisan cosponsors and passed the House by voice vote.

Third, we ask that you use the Senate's language regarding funding for the Marine Corps' CH-53K helicopters and fully fund all 73 UH-60M Blackhawks as requested in the President's budget for the Army.

If you have any questions, please contact Sam Loesche at sloesche@teamster.org.

James P. Hoffe

General President

Cc:

Chairman and Ranking Members: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee