



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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September 25, 2015

Dear Senator/Representative,

As President of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), I am writing regarding the possibility that Congress will fail to complete the passage either of appropriations bills, of a Continuing Resolution (CR), or of an Omnibus bill before the end of Fiscal Year 2015, thereby causing a government shutdown. First and foremost, IFPTE urges lawmakers from both parties to work diligently and swiftly toward a clean bipartisan CR that will prevent another wasteful and damaging government shutdown. However, if Congress fails to do its job, IFPTE urges lawmakers at least to ensure that all federal workers, who are merely innocent bystanders caught in the middle of a political battle, get paid. In that regard, we urge you to cosponsor S. 2035, the Federal Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2015, sponsored by Senator Ben Cardin (D, MD) and to support the Federal Employees Retroactive Pay Fairness Act, sponsored jointly by Representatives Don Beyer (D, VA) and Rob Wittman (R, VA).

Section 2 of S. 2035 stipulates that, "Each Federal employee furloughed as a result of a covered lapse in appropriations shall be paid for the period of the lapse in appropriations, and each excepted employee who is required to perform work during a covered lapse in appropriations shall be paid for such work, at the employee's standard rate of pay at the earliest date possible after the lapse in appropriations ends, regardless of scheduled pay dates." The Beyer/Wittman bill, which has yet to be introduced, would also ensure that all federal workers get paid when the government re-opens.

Given this latest spending emergency, it is worth reminding lawmakers that since 2011 our nation's federal employees have sacrificed \$159 billion for our nation, mostly through years of pay freezes and pension cuts that went towards deficit reduction, with some going to offset the 2012 extensions of the payroll tax cut and Unemployment Insurance (UI), as well as to help pay the bill to avoid sequestration through FY15. Government employees have also experienced furlough days and job insecurity due to the last government shutdown, as well as sequestration. Despite these major, repeated sacrifices, federal employee compensation and benefits are still being targeted as a 'pay for' for other congressional priorities, and the well-being and security of federal employee families are again directly threatened as another government shutdown looms.

At the very least Congress should pass legislation to ensure that federal workers and their families are not permanently harmed by a failure to pass the annual Appropriations legislation needed to keep our government open and functioning for the American people. Please cosponsor and vote for this important legislation.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please contact Matt Biggs at (202) 239-4880.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,
President