

A Prime Example of How Your Union Dues Work on Your Behalf

GESTA is Local 29 of our parent union, the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE). All dues-paying GESTA members pay a per capita tax each month to our parent organization, and this per capita tax makes up a substantial portion of your GESTA dues.

IFPTE Headquarters is located at 501 3rd Street NW, Suite 701 in Washington, D.C. IFPTE hired a small staff to handle day-to-day operations of the union. Among other things, one of the hired staff on IFPTE is a full-time legislator director, whose main job is to lobby Congress and the Administration for policies beneficial to the International's union members, which include GESTA bargaining unit employees. IFPTE has a good working relationship with many members of Congress in both parties over a long period of time, and many members of Congress value IFPTE's positions on many issues. While IFPTE does not always achieve results favorable to its union members, there are notable wins from time-to-time.

A recent example of such a "win" is the withdrawal of George Nesterzczuk from consideration to be President Trump's nominee for the position of Director of the Office of Personnel and Management (OPM), the entity which has tremendous impact to every single Federal Employee, as every civil servant in all federal government department and agencies are the jurisdiction of OPM. In matters of personnel and working conditions, all federal departments and agencies have to follow OPM policies and guidelines. As you can imagine, the Director of OPM can have a tremendous impact on the working conditions for more than two million civilian employees in the United States.

IFPTE opposed the nomination of Mr. Nesterzczuk from the start. It is not surprising because Mr. Nesterzczuk's checkered past would indicate that he is not friendly to federal employees. He was the architect of the Department of Defense's (DoD) National Security Personnel System (NSPS) which was created in 2003 for most of the 700,000 DoD employees. It was a discriminatory and non-transparent system with no regard for due process on workers' rights. The NSPS was eventually found to be illegal by a federal court, and Congress repealed this failed system when it passed the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. The General Accounting Office (GAO) issued a scathing report on the tremendous costs incurred by the NSPS, which was estimated by the DoD to be \$185 million, but actual costs grossly exceed that amount. There were also reports that Mr. Nesterzczuk had worked for the government of Ukraine circa 2006 and it is unknown whether he had ever registered as a foreign agent. Mr. Nesterzczuk was also forced to resign his position as OPM Associate Director in 1985 on a possible violation of the Hatch Act.

On July 26, 2017, IFPTE joined 15 other labor organizations in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Senator of the Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs committee to oppose Mr. Nesterzczuk as OPM Director. The full text of the letter can be found [here](#). The Washington Post reported on this letter sent by the 16 labor organizations on July 26, 2017; the article can be found [here](#). Mr. Nesterzczuk's withdrawal from being a nominee for OPM Director was reported by the Government Executive (GovSec.com), a media publication based on Washington, DC on August 1, 2017. To read this article, please read [here](#).