



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

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June 3, 2009

Dear Senator,

As President of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), I am writing regarding this week's Senate consideration of HR 1256, the *Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act*. This legislation contains language that is important to the retirement savings of federal workers.

IFPTE represents tens of thousands of federal workers. Included in our membership are workers employed by the Department of Energy, the Department of Navy, the Defense Logistics Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Congressional Research Service, the Government Accountability Office, the Social Security Administration, the Executive Office of Immigration Review, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of the Interior, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Included in H.R. 1256 are the following provisions that are of importance to federal workers and are supported by IFPTE:

- **Credit for Unused Sick Leave:** The bill will give federal employees under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) credit for unused sick leave in their pension calculations. Federal workers under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), most of who were hired prior to 1984, already enjoy this benefit, and;
- **Automatic Enrollment Into the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP):** Newly hired federal employees will be automatically enrolled into the G Fund of the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), unless the worker voluntarily opts out.

Again, IFPTE urges your support of this legislation. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me, or IFPTE Legislative Director, Matt Biggs, at (202) 239-4880.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,
President

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