



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

501 3rd Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20001
202-239-4880 • FAX 202-239-4881 • www.ifpte.org

May 13, 2008

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Gregory J. Junemann
PRESIDENT

Paul Shearon
SECRETARY-TREASURER

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

Joseph McGee
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
NORTHWESTERN

Larry Chojnacki
MIDWESTERN

Cynthia Cole
SPEEA

Ron Dicks
WESTERN

Debbie D. Logsdon
SPEEA

John G. Lowden Jr.
ATLANTIC

Lawrence V. Marrell
SPEEA

R. Kirk Miller
EASTERN FEDERAL

Mark Mitchell
WESTERN

Andrew Müller
CANADIAN

Gerald Newsome
ATLANTIC

Benjamin T. Toyama
WESTERN FEDERAL

Charlie Trembley
NORTHEASTERN

Allan Yamaguchi
NORTHWESTERN

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As President of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), I am writing regarding tomorrow's Armed Services Committee mark-up of the FY09 Defense Authorization bill. We at IFPTE would like to express our support for the following amendments which may be considered during the mark-up:

- Rep. Nancy Boyda (D-KS) Amendment: Congresswoman Boyda's legislation calls for a three year moratorium on the use of the OMB Circular A-76 privatization process within the DoD. To her credit, Representative Boyda correctly recognizes that the DoD is failing to adhere to the A-76 changes adopted in last year's version of this measure, which directs the DoD to no longer follow OMB contracting quota requirements. DoD is also ignoring a mandate in last year's legislation to prevent federal employees winning A-76 competitions from having to re-compete for their jobs every five years. Unfortunately the DoD has refused to conform to the law and Congresswoman Boyda's amendment would put a stop to the A-76 process until the existing law is followed. IFPTE supports the Boyda amendment.
- Representatives Cummings (D-MD) and Reyes Amendemnt (D-TX): The Cummings/Reyes amendment will guard against DoD's use of High Performing Organizations (HPOs) to circumvent both the Congress and the law to implement many of the reckless policy implications included in the now debunked National Security Personnel System (NSPS). Through HPOs management has downsized the civilian workforce, unilaterally stripped workers of their union representation, and turned a blind eye to an obligation to bargain the impact and implementation of an HPO. This is particularly true at the Army Corps of Engineers, where OMB driven HPOs have been used to take a wrecking ball to the Corps workforce in such areas as Logistics, while currently targeting Lock and Dam Operators for HPO, among other Corps functions. While IFPTE continues to support the efforts of any government agency to legally and cooperatively develop and institute efficient operating practices, the use of the HPO process by this DoD has been fueled by ideology, not efficiency. IFPTE supports this amendment to permit reorganizations to go forward only when they comply with the law and collective bargaining requirements.

I thank you and the full Committee Membership for your consideration. 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

Cc: House Armed Services Committee Members