



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

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IFPTE Responds to FY09 White House Budget Proposal Fails Federal, State and Private Sector Workers

SILVER SPRING, MD – International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) President Gregory Junemann provided the following response to today's release of the Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) White House budget proposal.

"The President's budget falls short in all of the key areas impacting America's workers. It ignores the fiscal crisis facing our struggling State and Local Governments, calls for cuts in funding to the Department of Labor, whose job it is to provide oversight on behalf American workers, and callously slashes Medicare spending.

"Sadly, this budget is also reflective of the Administration's stubborn indifference to the Congressionally recognized tradition of pay parity between military and civilian personnel. We at IFPTE look forward to working with Congress in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that both civilian and military employees receive at least a 3.4 percent increase in FY09, as is called for in the Employment Cost Index."

Key areas of the FY09 White House Budget include:

- A \$330 million cut to EPA funding and a \$198 million cut to the Bureau of Reclamation;
- A \$15.1 billion cut in 2009 to State and Local Government discretionary spending;
- A \$1.5 billion cut for homeland security and first responders aid to the States, a 45% decrease before adjusting for inflation;
- A cut of \$556 billion in Medicare spending over 10 years and a cut of \$18.2 billion in Medicaid over 5 years, shifting the burden of these obligations to the States;
- A cut of \$2 million to the Army Corps of Engineers budget, including hits to the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project, and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

IFPTE is a labor union representing upwards of 80,000 workers in the United States and Canada.

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