



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

PAUL SHEARON
President

MATTHEW S. BIGGS
Secretary-Treasurer

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

Gerald Newsome
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
ATLANTIC

Mazen Alsabe
NORTHEAST

Joel Funfar
SPEEA

Laurence Griffin
WESTERN

Gay Henson
EASTERN FEDERAL

Misty Hughes-Newman
CANADIAN

Donna Lehane
SPEEA

John Mader
WESTERN

Sean P. McBride
ATLANTIC

Ryan Rule
SPEEA

Dr. Leland S. Stone
WESTERN FEDERAL

Scott Travers
CANADIAN

Tina Zellmer
MIDWESTERN

December 12, 2018

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the members of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), including upwards of 25,000 IFPTE represented federal workers, we are writing to urge you to cosponsor and urge passage of S. 2274, The Federal Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2017. This legislation, which is authored by Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), provides for retroactive pay for furloughed federal employees who will be locked out from their jobs as a result of government shutdown. Given the uncertainty that many government agencies could shut their doors on December 22nd absent an end of the year Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) Minibus package, it is important that Congress take the necessary steps now to ensure that impacted workers will be compensated.

IFPTE shares the frustration of many Hill lawmakers – from both sides of the aisle - regarding the irresponsible approach to government spending by some elected leaders in both the legislative and executive branches of government. The tactic of holding the American public, our government services, the workforce, and the economy hostage in order to achieve ideologically-fueled outcomes is nothing short of reckless. This negotiating method lacks the sound reasoning and sense of reality that guides most of us in our everyday decision making.

It is important to remind lawmakers that since 2011 federal workers have sacrificed upwards of \$200 billion toward deficit reduction, mostly through years of pay freezes and pension cuts, 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 2013 government shutdown, threats of other shutdowns, and sequestration. Despite these huge sacrifices, hundreds of thousands of federal workers are, once again, facing furloughs due to no fault of their own. To add insult to injury, the current threat comes during the holiday season.

These middle-income workers should not have to lose pay due to a government shutdown caused by the inability of lawmakers to do their most fundamental job – fund the government. Please cosponsor S. 2274 and urge the Senate leadership to move it toward passage.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact either of us, or IFPTE legislative representative, Faraz Khan, at (202) 239-4880.

Sincerely,

Paul Shearon,
President

Matthew Biggs,
Secretary-Treasurer/Legislative Director

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS

