



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

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**PAUL SHEARON**

President

**MATTHEW S. BIGGS**

Secretary-Treasurer

December 24, 2018

## AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

Dear Senator and Representative:

We are writing regarding the ongoing government shutdown and the impact it is having on the hundreds of thousands of hard working federal employees across the nation, including the more than 10,000 civilian workers represented by the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE). While lawmakers in the legislative branch have gone home to enjoy the holidays with their families, and continue to collect a paycheck, these middle-income public servants and their families face an uncertain holiday season with no compensation at all.

IFPTE is pleased that on Friday the Senate passed legislation authored by Maryland Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin, ensuring that all federal workers impacted by this shutdown will ultimately get paid. IFPTE obviously urges the House to quickly follow suit. While this does provide some comfort to the locked-out workers, creditors will not stop sending bills and these families still need to put food on the table. Depending on how long this lockout continues, many of these workers will be forced to apply for unemployment compensation just to make ends meet.

At the end of the day, the fact remains that many of these workers have been locked out of their workplaces during the holiday season, while others are forced to work without pay. This only adds insult to injury during a year in which the Administration has inexplicitly pursued yet another federal employee pay freeze, along with massive cuts to federal worker pensions and healthcare benefits. It is clear that, at this point, Congress, not the Administration, will need to find a way toward reopening government agencies.

This shutdown is also going to provide a significant hit to our economy, and to the portfolios of millions of working-families who have their retirement security tied to the stock market. As we saw last week due to the uncertainty of a federal government shutdown, the markets experienced a free fall of epic proportion, with the Dow experiencing its worst week since the height of the Great Recession in October 2008. It is also worth reminding Congress that without a paycheck, federal workers will not have money to spend at retailers, grocery stores and restaurants to help fuel GDP growth. In fact, during the 2013 shutdown the economy lost as much as \$6 billion in fourth-quarter GDP growth alone.

IFPTE recognizes that most lawmakers on Capitol Hill do appreciate the hard work of federal workers. After all, there are federal workers in every Congressional district in the nation serving the needs of taxpayers. Please do your most fundamental job -- fund the government - and stop allowing these working Americans to be used as political pawns.

Sincerely,

Paul Shearon,  
President

Matthew Biggs,  
Secretary-Treasurer/Legislative Director

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EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
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