



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

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January 7, 2019

Hon. Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

We are writing on behalf of the more than 10,000 IFPTE represented federal employees who are being impacted by the current government shutdown. These workers are dedicated, middle-income civil servants who are being locked out of their workplaces and are without a paycheck. As the Senate Majority Leader, and a longtime voice of reason in the United States Senate, IFPTE urges you help the more than 800,000 working families by following the House's lead in approving the House passed spending bills.

The House of Representatives has spoken, sending the Senate two bipartisan bills that would immediately re-open the government, while the final status of border security funding is resolved. A few weeks ago, the Senate passed nearly identical legislation by Unanimous Consent (UC), so there is general agreement in Congress on a reasonable and bipartisan path forward. It is now time for the Senate to take swift action to pass these bills and send them to the President's desk so that we can put these workers back to work for the American people. It is the clear and obvious way to proceed.

Over the weekend, Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen urged the Senate to prioritize putting 800,000 locked out workers back to work over that of all other Senate business. As the representatives of tens of thousands of Republicans and Democrats with widely differing viewpoints on immigration (including in your home State of Kentucky), yet with a strong, unified, consensus view that this policy dispute should not and need not be used as an excuse for shutting down nine Agencies and depriving the American people of their good work, IFPTE agrees wholeheartedly with the Senator's recommendation. Rest assured, if the Senate does not fulfill its constitutional duty by considering the House passed spending bills, this will quickly become its shutdown as well.

The Senate cannot be passive, waiting for permission from the President to do its job. As the leader of the Senate, we ask that you use your considerable authority and political acumen to persuade the administration to sign this legislation for the good of the American people. If the President vetoes the bills, we ask that you work towards an override. This is not about politics; it is about governance.

We urgently ask that you do everything in your power to re-open the government as soon as possible, before families start missing payments, skipping meals, losing their apartments and homes, health care, or worse. These horrible and potentially irreversible outcomes must be avoided at all costs as they represent needless human suffering that accomplishes nothing.

Sincerely,

Paul Shearon, President	Matthew Biggs, Secretary-Treasurer/ Legislative Director	Gay Henson, Eastern Fed VP	Dr. Lee Stone, Western Fed VP
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