



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

October 23, 2013

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Gregory J. Junemann
PRESIDENT

Paul Shearon
SECRETARY-TREASURER

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

Charlie Trembley
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
NORTHEASTERN

Dean Coate
WESTERN

Joel Funfar
SPEEA

Gay Henson
EASTERN FEDERAL

Debbie Logsdon
SPEEA

Sean McBride
ATLANTIC

John Mader
WESTERN

Tom McCarty
SPEEA

Gerald Newsome
ATLANTIC

Mike Rudolf
MIDWESTERN

Lee Stone
WESTERN FEDERAL

Scott Travers
CANADIAN

Andrew Weremy
CANADIAN

Dear Representative,

As President of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), I am writing regarding today's House consideration of HR 3080, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2013. As a union representing tens of thousands of workers, including Army Corps of Engineers employees, IFPTE believes that this much needed legislation will not only go a long way toward modernizing and preserving our homeland critical infrastructures, including our ports, inland, and coastal waterways, but it will also create and preserve hundreds of thousands of high quality American jobs.

While IFPTE does support the legislation, we also have serious concerns with an amendment made in order by the Rules Committee. The amendment, sponsored by Representatives Don Young and Tom Petri, would force the Army Corps of Engineers to shift mapping and surveying functions from highly skilled federal workers to more costly contractor provided services.

The Young-Petri amendment is a simple one: It directs the Corps to use contractors for mapping and surveying wherever possible when performing water resources projects. It also prohibits Corps federal employees from undertaking mapping and surveying work, regardless of the quality and cost of the work, if it is already being performed by contractors.

IFPTE believes that all outsourcing should be done only after consideration of the cost versus benefit for the taxpayer. Just because a certain function may be deemed commercial in nature does not mean that it should be contracted out, as this amendment seeks to accomplish. The Army Corps of Engineers nor the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has found that surveying and mapping functions performed by federal workers are inadequate or more costly than contractors. In fact, just this past June Department of Defense (DOD) Comptroller, Robert Hale, testified before the Senate that contractors cost the taxpayer two to three times more than federal employees. Mr. Hale's statement was later reinforced by the Army Chief of Staff at a September House hearing. Forcing these activities to be contracted out absent any proof of cost savings is simply irresponsible.

WRDA is a jobs bill and will go a long way toward the creation and preservation of hundreds of thousands of American jobs. While our union supports the underlying bill, we are not supportive of the Young/Petri amendment. Support the bill, while rejecting the amendment.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions please contact IFPTE Legislative Director, Matt Biggs, at (202) 239-4880.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,
President