



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

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**GREGORY J. JUNEMANN**  
President

**PAUL SHEARON**  
Secretary-Treasurer

May 3, 2017

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Hon. Thad Cochran, Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
S-128 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Patrick Leahy, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
S-146A The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
283 Ford Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Nita Lowey, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran & Frelinghuysen and Ranking Members Leahy & Lowey:

On behalf of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), representing upwards of 90,000 workers in the federal, public, and private sectors, I am writing in response to the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Omnibus Appropriations bill that will be voted on in both Chambers of Congress this week.

IFPTE applauds you for your bipartisan compromise on this important spending measure as it allocates a healthy yet frugal budget appropriate for keeping the federal government open and performing its many critical functions for the American people. Your efforts this week were not only good for the thousands of talented and dedicated federal employees we represent, they were good for all Americans. While we understand that this compromise is not perfect, particularly as it relates to the potential loss of Social Security disability hearing offices across the nation, and that there are legitimate ongoing fiscal concerns that will necessarily temper future investments of taxpayer dollars, we hope that this week's breakthrough will guide the FY18 Appropriations cycle so that we might for the first time in a long have all FY18 Appropriations in place by October 1, 2017, and that all parties will continue to work together to find common ground in the center for the benefit of the American people you serve.

If you have any questions, please reach out to IFPTE Legislative Director, Matt Biggs, at (202) 239-4880.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,  
President

Cc: House of Representatives  
U.S. Senate