



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

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Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 90,000 members of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), I am writing regarding today's consideration of HR 3219, the *Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018*. This bill bundles together four of the twelve Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) spending bills for the Department of Defense (DOD), Legislative Branch, Military Construction/Veterans Affairs, and Energy and Water Appropriations measures. While IFPTE fully supports passage of all 12 appropriations measures to ensure for the efficient operation of the federal government, we nonetheless remain concerned with the process the House is undertaking with this minibuss, as this package violates the bipartisan supported Budget Control Act (BCA) and thus will lead to across the board sequester cuts unless Congress passes another bill to do away with the BCA. Instead IFPTE urges Congress to revert back to normal order by carefully considering each appropriation separately.

That said, IFPTE would like to flag several specific amendments that have been approved by the Rules Committee for HR 3219.

IFPTE urges you to support the following amendments:

- **Connolly amendment #18** to increase funding for the Governmental Accountability Office (GAO), a critically important legislative branch agency that provides sound analysis and recommendations to bring greater efficiencies to federal government agencies;
- **Ratcliffe/Shuster amendment #2** to prohibit the expenditure of any funds to propose, plan or execute a new round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Because the implementation of the most recent BRAC round in 2005 has cost taxpayers well over what was anticipated, and that there still has been no sound analysis performed as to the efficiencies of the number of overseas military facilities, it is premature to even consider a new BRAC round right now;
- **Welch amendment #79** to appropriate the authorized level of funding called for in Sec. 1177 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act (PL 114-322) to construct control gates, spillways and dam safety improvements for Army Corps of Engineers flood control reservoirs;
- **Jackson Lee amendment #29** to allocate an additional \$100 million for Army Corps of Engineers flood control related construction projects;

IFPTE urges you to oppose the following amendments:

- **Griffin/Meadows amendment #19** to eliminate the jobs at CBO's Budget Analysis Office. This amendment seeks to take advantage of a rule that was discarded over 30 years ago, but unfortunately resurrected again by this current House of Representatives that allows lawmakers to unilaterally reduce the salaries and overall numbers of workers at departments in government agencies. This is a draconian rule – called the Holman rule – that should have never been approved, and is now being used as a part of this bill, not only to target CBO's entire budget analysis division, but to also target individual federal positions (see DeSantis amendment #92). This amendment and all others that seek to implement the Holman rule should be roundly defeated;

- **Blackburn amendments #20 and #62**, which seek to implement an across the board one percent cut to agencies covered by this bill. Like any other across the board cut in funding, absent thoughtful and careful analysis of its impact, this is a reckless and irresponsible amendment that should be roundly defeated;
- **King (IA) amendment #40 and Rooney/Francis amendment #45**, which will eliminate Davis/Bacon prevailing wage protections for workers employed by federal government contractors for agencies covered by this bill. These are anti-worker amendments that seek to significantly cut the pay of workers and should be defeated;
- **Rooney/Francis amendment #46**, to end the use of project/labor agreements for federal construction projects. This amendment is fiscally irresponsible and will end up costing taxpayers more, as project/labor agreements not only benefit contractors and workers, they also benefit taxpayers by ensuring that federal construction projects are completed on time, in a safe working environment and with the best quality. This amendment should be defeated.
- **DeSantis amendment #92** to use the Holman rule to defund the salary of the Director of the Army Corps of Engineers. Again, all amendments that seek to implement the draconian Holman rule should be defeated.

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