



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

MATTHEW S. BIGGS
President

GAY HENSON
Secretary-Treasurer

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

John Mader
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
WESTERN

Katie Barrows
SOUTHEAST

Frances Hsieh
WESTERN

Michelle Johnston
CANADIAN

R Matthew Joyce
SPEEA

Joan Mah
WESTERN

Richard Mahé
CANADIAN

Sean P. McBride
ATLANTIC

Renaë McKenzie
EASTERN FEDERAL

Steven Pinto
ATLANTIC

Denise Robinson
NORTHEAST

Ryan Rule
SPEEA

Jamie Uyeunten
WESTERN FEDERAL

Gus Vallejo
WESTERN

May 31, 2023

Dear Representative:

As the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, a labor union representing upwards of 90,000 employees working in federal government, state and local government, and the private sector, we are writing to ask you to vote for the “Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023.” This bill, which is the result of a bipartisan debt ceiling and budget agreement between President Biden and House Speaker McCarthy and House leadership, will extend the debt limit to January 2025 and sets discretionary spending limits for fiscal year (FY) 2024 and FY 2025 that are based on FY 2023 spending levels. We ask you to vote for this legislation as it is necessary to avoid a U.S. debt default that is just days away.

Our union’s support for this necessary and urgent legislation is qualified and limited. While this bill will remove the threat of a debt default, it will implement unnecessary two-year spending caps that constrains Congress’s ability to fund programs, services, and investments that are necessary to support working families and our nation’s economic competitiveness. This legislation also cuts some of the recent funding increases for the Internal Revenue Service, increases the age for work requirements for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to 54 years, and ends the pause on student loan repayments and interest accruals. Despite the legislation’s name, this bill does not include fiscally responsible policies, like those in the President’s FY 2024 budget, to increase tax increases on corporations and the wealthy – policies that are necessary to responsibly reduce budget deficits that are driving the increase in federal debt.

While these are significant concessions, they are a vast improvement on the irresponsible demands originally put forward in the House-passed “Limit, Save, Grow Act,” partisan legislation which included 10-year federal spending limits set to FY 2022 spending levels, cuts to federal clean energy investments, and added time limits and administrative hurdles to SNAP, Medicaid and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. Those cuts would have had a detrimental impact on economic growth, increased unemployment, and denied important and necessary services and benefits that veterans, seniors, working Americans, students, and businesses count on. That approach not only held the U.S. and global economy hostage to a debt default threat, but it would also have created an impossible target of cutting non-defense discretionary spending by about 25%.

Instead, the bipartisan debt ceiling and budget legislation limits discretionary spending limits to two years starting at roughly fiscal year 2023 levels, excludes veterans’ health benefits and Department of Defense funding from budget caps for fiscal year 2024, expands access to SNAP benefits for the homeless and veterans, leaves intact Inflation Reduction Act incentives, and adding improvements to energy project permitting to support clean energy investments.

As we request the House of Representatives pass the negotiated agreement, IFPTE intends to work in a bipartisan manner to minimize the negative impacts caused by the “Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023.” We are also committing to supporting the “End the Threat of Default Act,” sponsored by Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL), so that debt ceiling hostage-taking is no longer a possibility.

Thank you for considering our request. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly or contact IFPTE Legislative Director Faraz Khan at 202-239-4892.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Biggs
IFPTE President



Gay Henson
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer

