



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

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July 20, 2022

Dear Representative:

As the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), a labor union representing upwards of 90,000 workers in the federal, public, and private sector, we are writing to request you vote for H.R. 8294, the “minibus” package that includes Transportation, Housing and Urban Development; Agriculture and Rural Development; Energy and Water Development; Financial Services and General Government; Interior and Environment; and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act of 2023. Further, we urge you to vote for En Bloc #8 to support important Veterans Administration services and prevent additional funds for Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission.

This minibuss supports critical government services that Americans and our national economy count on. It includes \$77.6 billion to fully fund Highway Trust Fund programs included in last year’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation and supports commitments to commuter and passenger rail, and aviation infrastructure. The minibuss also adds \$2.3 billion to the President’s budget request for the Army Corps of Engineers, increasing investigations, construction, operations and maintenance and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund accounts over the previous fiscal year.

With over \$48 billion for the Department of Energy, which is \$3.3 billion over the previous enacted level, this minibuss increases funding for energy efficiency, advanced research and innovation, and programs supporting domestic manufacturing necessary for a clean energy transition.

In this legislative package, House appropriators are allowing President Biden’s proposed 4.6% pay increase for federal employees. While IFPTE has requested at least a 5.1% increase in response to federal employee not keeping up with private sector pay and in recognition of the sacrifices that federal employees have made over the last decade of paltry pay increases the 4.6% increase will at least help federal employees from falling behind as high inflation continues.

As you finish considering amendments today, we urge Representatives to vote for En Bloc #8 direct VA funds to needed services and not the misguided AIR Commission, which utilizes flawed data and an unaccountable process to review VA facilities for closure and opening the door for expensive and less effective care under privatized VA services. We make this request in support of IFPTE members who are veterans, who work alongside service members and veterans, and who include veterans among their families.

Finally, we are pleased that Representatives rejected counter-productive and dangerous amendments that would have defunded the Federal Labor Relations Authority, removed Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, and gutted funding levels for federal agencies,

and denied improvements to voting access for active duty and overseas citizens, disabled citizens, and federal employees.

For all these reasons, we urge you to vote for En Bloc #8 and vote to pass H.R. 8294. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact IFPTE Legislative Director Faraz Khan at [fkhan@ifpte.org](mailto:fkhan@ifpte.org) or 202-239-4892.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Biggs  
IFPTE President



Gay Henson  
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer

