



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

501 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20001  
202-239-4880 • FAX 202-239-4881 • [www.ifpte.org](http://www.ifpte.org)

**MATTHEW S. BIGGS**  
President

**GAY HENSON**  
Secretary-Treasurer

## AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

**Gerald Newsome**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
ATLANTIC

**Katie Barrows**  
SOUTHEAST

**Joel Funfar**  
SPEEA

**Frances Hsieh**  
WESTERN

**Michelle Johnston**  
CANADIAN

**R. Matthew Joyce**  
SPEEA

**John Mader**  
WESTERN

**Richard Mahe**  
CANADIAN

**Sean P. McBride**  
ATLANTIC

**Rena McKenzie**  
EASTERN FEDERAL

**Denise Robinson**  
NORTHEAST

**Ryan Rule**  
SPEEA

**Jamie Uyeunten**  
WESTERN FEDERAL

**Gus Vallejo**  
WESTERN

September 29, 2021

Dear Senator:

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 urge you in the strongest sense possible to pass a short-term continuing resolution to fund the federal government in time to avert a government shutdown and to allow Congressional Appropriators in both chambers the needed time to negotiate and pass all twelve appropriations bills.

A shutdown would impact IFPTE's federal sector members at Navy shipyards and facilities, the Army Corps of Engineers, NASA, NOAA, the U.S. Immigration Court, the Department of Interior, the Merit Systems Protection Board, and the Department of Energy, among others.

Our members have lived through the numerous shutdowns in the last 25 years. Many of those members deemed "essential" have worked without pay through shutdowns. The consequences of these shutdowns show up not only in increased costs to taxpayers, reduced military readiness, expensive delays to projects and research, payment disruptions to government contractors, and suspension of important services and public safety measures – it also impacts the morale, financial security, retention rates of the diverse population of federal workers who have chosen a career in the civil service. For federal employees with security clearances, a government shutdown creates the possibility of employees being unable to meet financial obligations through no fault of their own. This can have a serious effect on their ability to maintain or qualify for those clearances and may be detrimental to their career.

This absurd threat of a government shutdown must be avoided in the next few hours. We urge you to pass a continuing resolution immediately to avoid a government shutdown. Further, we strongly encourage Senators to work in a bipartisan manner to increase the debt limit so that the U.S. Treasury is able to pay for past and upcoming financial commitments, including commitments that this Congress has approved. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen's appeal to Congress on raising the debt limit includes a clear warning of the far-reaching impacts that waiting until the last minute to act can have on consumer and business confidence, the cost of borrowing, and the nation's credit rating.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us directly, or IFPTE legislative director Faraz Khan at (202) 239-4892.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Biggs  
IFPTE President

Gay Henson  
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer