



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

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February 15, 2022

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, without delay, H.R. 6617, the FY 2022 Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government through March 11, 2022.

While this legislation is necessary to prevent a lapse in government fund and a government shutdown that would occur on February 19th, 2022, Congress cannot adequately provide for all the critical federal work, necessary government services, and our national security and economic security through continuing resolutions.

We appreciate that House and Senate leaders are working towards an omnibus bill that will provide necessary funding at robust levels for FY2022 and meet the needs of our economy and of working Americans. This is important to IFPTE members, many of whom have lived through the numerous shutdowns in the last 25 years and years of flat federal spending levels in the last decade. Sequestration budgets, government shutdowns, and temporary funding have resulted in increased costs to taxpayers, reduced military readiness, delayed federal projects and research, disrupted government contractors' operations, and suspended important services and public safety measures. It has also impacted the morale, financial security, retention rates of the diverse population of federal workers who have chosen a career in the civil service.

Additionally, as an omnibus bill moves forward, we request appropriators make sure to include Section 525 of the House-passed Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, H.R. 4502, that makes sure individuals have a right to appeal their denied Social Security benefits before an independent administrative law judge, not a Social Security Administration staff attorney.

Finally, we applaud Senator Brian Schatz and Representative Ed Case for making sure this continuing resolution includes \$350 million in emergency appropriations for the Department of Defense to address drinking water contamination and comply with a Hawaii state order to remove fuel from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. These actions are urgently needed so that IFPTE members working at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and their families and communities have safe drinking water.

For all these reasons, we request you pass H.R. 6617 as soon as possible. We also request Congress pass an omnibus spending bill with robust spending levels, with the provision to ensure fair and independent Social Security hearings and appeal process, and with a commitment to pass the FY2023 appropriations bill before the fiscal year begins. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either or us directly, or IFPTE Legislative Director Faraz Khan at (202) 239-4892.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Biggs
IFPTE President

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IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer