



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

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Dear Representative:

We write to you as the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), a labor union representing upwards of 90,000 professional employees, including federal employees working at the Department of Navy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NASA, Social Security Administration, the Immigration Court, EPA, Department of Energy, and several other agencies, to request you vote for the bipartisan Preventing a Patronage System Act, H.R. 302.

This legislation, sponsored by Representative Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), is a vital solution to ensuring our federal civil service is not undermined by an executive branch that seeks to replace nonpartisan career federal employees and merit system principles with political operatives and a patronage system in the federal government. At its core, this legislation upholds a key democratic institution — the federal civil service — and supports transparency, due process, and good governance throughout federal agencies, and the efficient and effective use of taxpayer dollars.

The Preventing a Patronage System Act would avert future efforts by the executive branch to unilaterally remove longstanding and well considered protections against government corruption. This legislation prevents the executive branch creating a class of political appointees to perform work that properly should be performed by nonpartisan federal employees hired through and working under a competitive and merit-based process.

We know full-well the threat of the executive branch taking the extraordinary step of converting key parts of the merit-based federal workforce to a patronage system is real. This bill was drafted in response to the Trump Administration's Executive Order 13957, which created a new excepted service classification called "Schedule F." Were it not overturned by President Biden, this executive order would have opened the door to firing tens of thousands of dedicated career civil servants with institutional knowledge and a commitment to public service, eliminated rigorous hiring and performance standards, and embedded political allies and political influence throughout the government. The impact of Schedule F and any similar effort to inject political patronage, cronyism, and corruption into the federal government would not only be felt by federal employees — it would harm working people, our economy, the public interest, and the legitimacy of our democracy.

The defense of our democratic institutions should be a goal that cuts across party lines. This legislation makes sure that a president from either political party cannot decimate the professional civil service, merit systems, and due process protections that serve the best interests of the American public.

Therefore, we urge you to vote for the Preventing a Patronage System Act and affirm the role of a professional, nonpartisan, qualified civil service based on merit system principles in our democracy. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact IFPTE Legislative Director Faraz Khan at 202-239-4892 or fkhan@ifpte.org.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Biggs
IFPTE President



Gay Henson
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer

