



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

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September 21, 2023

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 employed in the federal government, state and local government, and the private sector, we are writing to urge you in the strongest sense possible to pass a short-term continuing resolution (CR) that maintains Fiscal Year 2023 spending levels through mid-December 2023 and do so before the start of the new fiscal year on October 1.

A short-term CR will provide appropriators the time needed to negotiate and pass all twelve Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bills before January 1, 2024, and provide proper funding for federal agencies under the agreed-to spending levels that House Speaker McCarthy and President Biden agreed to and Congress passed in the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Encouragingly, Senate appropriators are working in a bipartisan manner so that the Senate is prepared to pass a CR as soon as possible.

From past experiences, federal employees and their unions know full well that the lapse in federal funding and the resulting government shutdown will be felt in every Congressional district and across the U.S. economy. The essential services and functions that the federal government provides to the American people will continue to be delivered, but they will be delivered by federal employees who will not be paid until Congress restores government funding. However, many services that Americans rely on will be interrupted and those that are deemed essential and continue to be provided throughout the shutdown will lack the support staff and resources. Federal employee training and hiring will be delayed, as will research and infrastructure projects carried out by federal agencies and their partners, resulting in costly and time-sensitive delays. State and local government services that receive support from federal discretionary spending and grants that aren't funded through the calendar year, including services that help families and children in need, will be strained.

Many of the IFPTE members who work at Navy shipyards and depots, the Army Corps of Engineers, NASA, the Immigration Court, GAO, the Congressional Research Service, the Social Security Administration, Defense Logistics Agency, EPA, NOAA, the Merit Systems Protection Board, and the Department of Energy have lived through several shutdowns in the last 25 years. The consequences of a government shutdown also impact federal employees' household's financial security and health, including their ability to pay their rent or mortgage, pay for childcare, and afford necessary medical expenses. 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, which seriously affects their ability to maintain or qualify for those clearances and may be detrimental to their careers. The annual threats of a government shutdown and the uncertainty it creates not only hurt the morale of federal workers, it also undermines agencies' efforts to recruit and retain skilled and dedicated civil servants.

A government shutdown will also result in employees of federal contractors and subcontractors being furloughed and those businesses facing interruptions in government payments. Our nations' exports and trade-oriented industries will suffer because of the closure of the State Department and the Commerce Department. Businesses and farmers may lose access to government data on commodities, employment, and other information that is critical to their operations. The economic impact of a shutdown will also hamper consumer confidence and spending, lower GDP, threaten our nation's bond rating, and ultimately increase the cost of government operations due to the resources needed to shutter operations during the lapse in funding and restart operations once funding is restored.

For all these reasons, we request Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to pass a CR to extend current spending levels and avoid this absurd threat of a government shutdown in the days ahead. Furthermore, we ask you to include disaster relief for American communities, overdue pay increases for wildland firefighters, maintain funding for childcare services, and support our Ukrainian allies in supplemental funding. 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

