



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

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February 23, 2024

Hon. Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Michael Johnson
House Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader McConnell, and
Minority Leader Jeffries:

As the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), we are writing to urge you to extend Fiscal Year 2024 federal government funding that is set to expire on March 1 and on March 8. As a labor union representing upward of 90,000 workers, including tens of thousands of federal workers, who will be severely adversely impacted by a partial government shutdown that may begin on March 2 and a full government shutdown that may begin on March 9, IFPTE urges you to expeditiously pass FY 24 funding so that there is no lapse in appropriations. Further, we request you remove policy riders from any appropriations bills and pass clean spending bills.

We are encouraged that House and Senate leadership has reached agreements on top-line funding and we understand that appropriators have agreed to sub-allocation levels under a framework that corresponds with the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. However, Congressional leadership must make clear to their respective conferences that policy riders need to be removed and clean spending bills must be brought to the floor of the House and Senate to prevent an avoidable government shutdown.

If the FY24 funding bills are not possible by the March 1 and March 8 deadlines, we urge Congress to pass a short-term CR to allow additional time for the passage of clean FY24 spending bills.

Congressional passage and enactment of the federal employees, including nearly 40,000 federal workers represented by IFPTE, will continue to provide important public services that Americans count on, conduct cutting-edge R&D and science, help facilitate commerce and economic development, support our armed services and the national defense, and

ensure our communities are safe and have the resources they need. Over the last few days, hundreds of thousands of federal employees have been bracing for the possibility of a government shutdown of an indeterminate length that could delay their paychecks and leave them furloughed or working without pay until the shutdown ends. Many of our members who work for the federal government have been through one or several shutdowns before and know this absurd and avoidable situation creates financial hardships for federal workers and contractors, interrupts and damages the important services they provide and projects they work on, and ultimately increases 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. Swift Congressional action is needed to avert a government shutdown that is mere days away.

Finally, we encourage you to continue to work in a bipartisan manner to provide appropriations bills for FY24 and FY25 and prevent a lapse of appropriations for the federal government. Americans in every state and Congressional district count on and expect the services and benefits provided by our federal government, including access to Social Security and Medicare benefits, veterans services, and federal activities that keep our roads, bridges, and airspace safe, and support our fighting men and women, just to name a few.

Thank you for considering our concerns and our request. 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