



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

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November 18, 2021

Dear Senator

As the Executive Officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), representing upwards of 90,000 workers in the federal, public and private sectors, we are writing regarding your consideration of amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for the Fiscal Year 2022.

We ask that you support the following amendments:

- **# 4653, Sponsored by Sen. Wicker** – SHIPYARD Act. Provides \$25 billion for shipyards, including \$21 billion for overdue repairs and maintenance of Navy public shipyards' facilities, dry dock, capital equipment improvements, and other infrastructure maintenance.
- **# 4630, Sponsored by Sen. Baldwin** – Creates Office of Supply Chain Resiliency within Commerce Department to provide loans, loan guarantees, and grants to small and medium manufacturers, with incentives for expanding domestic production. Recipients of funding are required to recognize unions when a majority of an appropriate bargaining unit signs union authorization cards.
- **# 3976, Sponsored by Sen. Duckworth with Sens. Gillibrand and Baldwin** – Requires major defense acquisitions include domestic content that exceeds 60% of the cost of manufactured goods on the date of enactment, and increases domestic content requirement to 75% by 2029.
- **# 4314, Bipartisan amendment sponsored by Sens. Duckworth, Ernst, and Fischer** – Authorizes a DOD pilot program for the use of sustainable aviation fuel and development of domestic feedstock and related infrastructure, with an emphasis on increasing sustainable aviation fuel usage for both military and non-military aircraft operators.
- **# 4722, Sponsored by Sen. Sanders** – Improves the CHIPS for America Act, passed in the NDAA for FY21, by requiring employers receiving federal support under CHIPS to remain neutral during union organizing efforts, prohibiting those firms from offshoring jobs or abrogating collective bargaining agreements during a 5-year period.
- **# 3869, Sponsored by Sen. Gillibrand** – Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act of 2021. This provision would provide VA benefits to service members exposed to toxins, including burn pits,

during their service. It removes the excessive burden of proof the current law places on disabled veterans and applies presumption conditions.

- **# 3927, Sponsored by Sen. Brown** – Burn Pit Transparency Act. Requires Secretary of the VA to report to Congress on a quarterly and annual basis the status of each burn pit exposure disability claim, rationale for denials of any such claims, as well as identification of open burn pits which veterans were exposed to, and identification of illnesses related to burn pit exposure.
- **# 3930, Sponsored by Sen. Brown** – Creates pilot program under DOD and VA to include a counseling module in the Transition Assistance Program, which helps uniformed service members move to civilian life, with the purpose of reducing the incidence of suicide among veterans.
- **# 3891, Sponsored by Sen. Casey** – Locality Pay Equity Act. Requires that locality pay rates for hourly federal employees and salaried federal employees in a given wage area are the same. Also ensures that no federal employee is paid less due to this provision.
- **# 3913, Sponsored by Sen. Casey** – National Critical Capabilities Defense Act of 2021. Inclusion of this legislation supports the creation of a multiagency Committee on National Critical Capabilities which is tasked with reviewing critical industries, identifying additional capacities to be considered as critical, and reporting to Congress recommendations for the use of the Defense Production Act to reduce dependency on foreign supply chains and materials.
- **# 4218, Bipartisan amendment sponsored by Sens. Cornyn and Hassan** – Directs DOD Comptroller General to brief House and Senate Armed Service Committees and report on recent efforts to maintain and protect defense supply chains and identify supply chain shortfalls.
- **# 4278, Bipartisan amendment sponsored by Sens Menendez and Blackburn** – Establishes a National Manufacturing Extension Partnership Supply Chain Database under the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the purpose of aggregating state-level information to provide real-time product availability.
- **# 4462, Bipartisan amendment sponsored by Sens. Peters, Portman, Warner, and Blackburn** – IG Independence and Empowerment Act. Includes provisions to increase the independence of Inspectors General and protects them from political retaliation by requiring that an IG can only be removed for a knowing violation of the law, abuse of authority, or gross mismanagement.
- **# 3899, Sponsored by Sen. Warren** – Extends best practice whistleblower protections to federal contractor and subcontractor employees who disclose mismanagement, waste, and fraud.
- **# 3957, Sponsored by Sen. Carper, with Sens. Merkley and Duckworth** – The Periodically Listing Updates to Management Act (The PLUM Act). Modernizes OPM's public directory of senior government leaders and increases transparency by requiring up-to-date online publication of the Plum Book.

We ask that you oppose the following amendments:

- **OPPOSE # 4101, # 4108, and # 4110, Sponsored by Sen. Lankford** – Grants agencies an uncapped hiring authority for temporary and term appointments for 1 year term and for up to 3 total terms; increases expedited authorities to 25% of agencies' headcount; and tasks OPM with issuing regulations to allow agencies to hire “high-performing civilian employees” on a noncompetitive basis. We urge you to oppose these amendments as agencies already have numerous hiring authorities at their disposal and granting these hiring authorities will circumvent merit-based competitive rating and ranking as well as veterans preference.
- **OPPOSE # 4002, Sponsored by Sen. Lee** – Authorizes the Navy to construct vessels in foreign shipyards located in NATO nations, which would result in undercutting the U.S. defense industrial base, offshoring major procurement projects that are national security critical, and undermine the knowledge pipeline of the U.S. defense workforce.
- **OPPOSE # 4097, Sponsored by Sens. Lankford and Daniels** – Stop Vaccine Mandates Act. Proposes to revoke Executive Orders 14042 and 14043, which provides a federal employee vaccine requirement and a federal contractor COVID workplace safety protocol. These EOs are significant measures to provide safe federal workplace settings and a blanket repeal does not serve the interests of federal workers, federal contractors, or the public.

Thank you for your consideration. 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



Gay Henson
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer