



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

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MATTHEW S. BIGGS
President

GAY HENSON
Secretary-Treasurer

September 30, 2023

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 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 the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act, Senate Amendment 1292 to H.R. 3935.

Senate passage of this short-term continuing resolution (CR) will fund the federal government at current spending levels through November 17, 2023, and allow Congressional appropriators the needed time to pass government funding for fiscal year (FY) 2024 before January 1, 2024, and provide proper funding for federal agencies at spending levels that House Speaker McCarthy and President Biden agreed to and Congress passed in the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

We applaud the bipartisan CR's provisions that include disaster relief funding, extensions to support community health centers, support for WIC and the commodity supplemental food program, federal wildland firefighters pay, support for Ukraine, and an extension of the FAA's authorities through the end of the year.

However, we are deeply alarmed that a lapse in federal spending is very likely to occur on Sunday, October 1. IFPTE-represented federal employees 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. Many IFPTE members working at Navy shipyards, the Army Corps of Engineers, NASA, the Immigration Court, GAO, the Congressional Research Service, the Social Security Administration, Defense Logistics Agency, NOAA, EPA, the Merit Systems Protection Board, and the Department of Energy have lived through several shutdowns in the last 25 years. This weekend, federal workers who are expecting to be furloughed or work without pay are coping with how to meet financial obligations during the shutdown. The annual threats of a government shutdown and the uncertainty it creates not only hurt the morale of federal workers, but also undermine agencies' efforts to recruit and retain skilled and dedicated civil servants.

Further, exports and trade will suffer, and farmers, fisheries, and businesses may lose access to government data 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.

Therefore, we request you pass the CR to extend current spending levels to November 17 and do everything in your power to avoid a government shutdown. 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

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