



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

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February 7, 2024

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The Honorable Gary C. Peters, Sr.
Chairman
Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs Committee
United States Senate
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Rand Paul, M.D.
Ranking Member
Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs Committee
United States Senate
295 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Peters and Ranking Member Paul:

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 employees, including federal employees working at Navy shipyards and depots, Army Corps of Engineers, NASA, Social Security Administration, the Immigration Court, Environmental Protection Agency, NOAA, Department of Energy, Merit Systems Protection Board, and other agencies. We urge the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee to move swiftly to advance Anne Wagner, nominee for Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA).

The FLRA plays a vital role in settling disputes between federal employees and federal agencies, assuring federal employees' representation rights, and safeguarding the public interest, as stipulated by the Federal Service Labor-Management Statute (or "the Statute"). A functional FLRA is a requirement for achieving high-performing federal workplaces, for innovating approaches that allow federal employees and agencies to partner and advance the agency mission, and for making the federal government a model employer. Unfortunately, the FLRA has had a vacancy on the Authority for over a year now. Without a third Member who can adjudicate fairly and break a deadlock, the Authority often cannot issue decisions on important matters. This not only harms federal employees, but it also results in uncertainty for agencies and hurts the government's ability to deliver services that Americans count on.

Ms. Wagner is currently Associate Special Counsel of the Office of Special Counsel (OSC), an agency with investigative and prosecutorial authority to protect current and former federal employees, applicants for federal employment, and the public from prohibited personnel practices. In her role at OSC and throughout her public service, she has demonstrated that she possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience concerning matters pertaining to the rights and obligations of parties under the Statute, federal personnel policies, and merit principles. With a career that includes serving as Vice-Chair of the Merit Systems Protection Board, as General Counsel of the Government Accountability Office's Personnel Appeals Board, and, before public service, working on behalf of union-represented federal workers, we are confident that Ms. Wagner is highly qualified to serve as Member of the FLRA who will

provide independent and well-considered reasoning and decision-making on the Authority. We ask the Committee to hold a confirmation hearing as soon as practicable and advance her nomination.

Thank you for considering our request. We are available to provide further information about our support for Anne Wagner to serve as FLRA Member. 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

