



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

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October 24, 2023

Hon. James McHenry  
Speaker Pro Tempore  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Pro Tempore McHenry and Minority Leader Jefferies:

As the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), we are writing regarding the continuing inability of the House Republican Majority to agree on a Speaker of the House and the impact of this gridlock on working families. IFPTE represents upward of 90,000 workers, including tens of thousands of federal workers, most of whom will be severely adversely impacted by the House's inability to legislate and govern.

We are less than three and a half weeks away from November 17, when the current Continuing Resolution (CR) funding for the government will expire. IFPTE asks that you both, as leaders of the House of Representatives, work together to come to an acceptable path forward to allow for an Interim Speaker to, at the very least, consider and advance must-pass legislation that the American public so urgently depends on. This starts with passing the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) funding bills, either individually, through an Omnibus, or a series of minibus bills. If the FY24 funding bills are not possible, which we sadly expect could be the case, any Interim Speaker should have the authority to pass more CRs to keep the government operating until an agreement can be reached on the FY24 bills. Keeping in mind that failure to pass the FY24 bills by January 1 will trigger an automatic 1% across-the-board cut to all federal agencies, IFPTE is hopeful that Congress will eventually pass the FY24 bills before the New Year. Other must-pass bills such as the National Defense Authorization Act and the FAA Reauthorization Act should also be under the purview of the Interim Speaker to get passed.

The Interim Speaker, with these limited authorities to move only must-pass bills, shall remain in place until the House Republican Majority can muster the 217 votes needed to elect a permanent Speaker. If and when that happens, IFPTE hopes that the next Speaker will be a person whose loyalty is to America, the people who live here, and to our Constitution, and not to a small, fringe element within the Republican Party who would rather defund the government altogether than provide the services the public expects, including such programs as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans healthcare, keeping our roads, bridges and airspace safe, and supporting our fighting men and women, just to name a few.

Moving forward, we truly hope that the House Republican majority is using this very sad moment in American history as an inflection point. Shortly after President Reagan defeated Jimmy Carter in 1980, the great Speaker Tip O'Neill said: "We're going to cooperate with the President. It's America first and party second." The current House majority would be wise to adopt Speaker O'Neill's approach.

Sadly, it is clear to IFPTE that the Republican House majority is incapable of doing the fundamentals of governing, including electing a Speaker. It is time for the House to break with tradition and for the Democratic minority to aid the House majority in getting an Interim Speaker in place and with limited powers.

Thank you for considering our concerns and our request.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Biggs  
IFPTE President



Gay Henson  
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer

