



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

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March 6, 2024

Dear Representative:

As the executive officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), a labor union representing upwards of 90,000 workers in the federal, public, and private sectors, we are writing to ask you to vote for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. The “minibus” which includes six of the twelve annual appropriations bills, directly impacts IFPTE members who work at NASA, the Immigration Court, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Legal Services Corporation, and the aerospace professionals who count on a functional and appropriately funded FAA.

This six-bill minibus provides \$467.5 billion to fund and authorizes critical government functions and essential public services for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, including delivering food and nutrition programs for lower income working families, supporting our veterans, investing in key infrastructure for our economic security and national defense, protecting our key federal science and R&D missions, and advancing economic priorities that support critical industries. Most importantly, through bipartisan negotiations, House and Senate Appropriators managed to focus on priorities and non-controversial and non-germane policy riders that lack bipartisan support. The overall funding levels in this legislation are consistent with the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and we request you pass this legislation before any lapse in appropriations occurs after March 8.

While we support passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, we also note that the FY24 funding will create significant pressure on federal agencies and federal programs that benefit American workers, businesses, and economic prosperity in every Congressional District. With funding levels at, and in some notable cases, below the FY23 levels, the minibus will require federal agencies to work in partnership with their union-represented workers and for Congress to provide oversight to make sure FY24 funding constraints do not provide a lower level of services and benefits for key federal programs and maintain the knowledge and technical capabilities of the federal workforce. In particular, we are concerned that the 2% cut to NASA’s budget will require the agency to rebalance program funding to maintain NASA’s global leadership in space and earth sciences, aerospace research, and space exploration. We appreciate that appropriators included instructions in the joint explanatory statement that support keeping the work of NASA Centers, programs, and civil service expertise intact. We also note with concern that the joint explanatory statement includes language related to faulty Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) case performance metrics gathered from immigration judges’ performance dashboard and tasks EOIR with implementing a performance appraisal system. Immigration judges represented by the National Association of Immigration Judges-IFPTE Judicial Council 2, have shared significant due process and fairness concerns with Congress regarding EOIR’s previous policies on performance-lined quotas and appropriators have previously responded by including language to prevent “case performance numeric metrics that are linked to performance evaluations for individual immigration judges.” We are committed to working with Congress, the agency, and the

Administration to ensure that accurate and appropriate immigration court metrics are used for the analysis of EOIR performance and that the agency does not misuse faulty data to institute a performance quota for immigration judges.

Finally, we applaud the bipartisan agreement that appropriators and leadership have taken in bringing this legislation to the floor of the House. We encourage Representatives to continue that effort to pass the remaining FY24 appropriations bills before March 22.

Thank you for considering our request. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact IFPTE Legislative Director Faraz Khan at (202) 239-4892.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Biggs
IFPTE President



Gay Henson
IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer

