



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

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Hon. Chuck Hagel, Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Hagel,

As President of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE), representing thousands of Department of Defense (DOD) civilian workers throughout the United States, I am writing regarding the recently passed Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) continuing resolution (CR) and its impact on the department's furlough proposal.

As you know, passage of the FY13 CR, while important, does not preempt the sequestration cuts caused by the Budget Control Act of 2011. That law would have to be amended in order to avoid the sequestration cuts – a resolution that IFPTE is supportive of, but one that does not appear to be forthcoming anytime soon. With respect to the sequestration slated for DOD, \$5 billion of the \$45 billion in FY13 spending reductions were to be achieved through cuts to DOD salary accounts such as the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) account. It is this proposed O&M account cut that led to the current 22 day furlough policy for most DOD civilian employees.

Through the FY13 CR Senate appropriators have fortunately made a concerted effort to help DOD avoid these damaging civilian furloughs, while giving the department the flexibility needed to still meet their sequestration responsibilities. Unlike most other government agencies, appropriators provided DOD with an FY13 appropriation, versus continuing with the FY12 levels through September. In particular, appropriators shifted more than \$10 billion from DOD's procurement and R&D accounts to the O&M account, where the lion's share of the civilian salary monies are paid. These additional monies are obviously more than enough to cover the proposed \$5 billion sequestration cut that was slated for the O&M account prior to passage of the FY13 CR.

IFPTE applauds DOD for announcing a two week reprieve from furlough planning in light of the new FY13 DOD appropriations bill approved by Congress. With the additional flexibility granted to the department, particularly the more than \$10 billion plus-up to the O&M account, IFPTE urges the DOD to agree to reverse course and cancel the 22 day furlough plan for the department's civilian workforce. These additional monies are more than enough to put all DOD workers back to work full-time where they belong, and providing the vitally critical support and services that our military women and men depend on.

Thank you for your consideration. I, and/or IFPTE Legislative Director, Matt Biggs, stand ready to discuss this matter with you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,
President