



October 4, 2013

Re: H.R. 3223, the Federal Employee Retroactive Pay Fairness Act

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the five million federal and postal workers and annuitants represented by the national member organizations of the Federal-Postal Coalition, we respectfully urge you to support bipartisan legislation H.R. 3223, the Federal Employee Retroactive Pay Fairness Act.

This bill, scheduled to be voted on this weekend, seeks to provide retroactive pay to federal employees furloughed as a result of the lapse in appropriations that began on October 1, 2013. Such employees would be compensated at their respective standard rate of compensation for the period of such lapse in appropriations.

While Congress and the President struggle to come to agreement on a budget, there is no reason to punish federal employees by arbitrarily slashing their paychecks. The issues being debated by the Congress and the President are significant, but so are the interests of the hard-working Americans who make up the federal workforce as well as their families. Determinations of which federal employees are allowed to continue working during lapses in appropriations are not uniform across government and can be affected by political considerations. What cannot be questioned, however, is the eagerness of all federal employees to continue serving the American people.

As the shutdown continues, we want to highlight the critical work performed by the nation's federal employees, which they are being prevented from carrying out. Nearly 85 percent of federal employees live and work outside of the Washington, D.C. area. They perform services that keep our national parks operative, provide Social Security benefits, conduct America's diplomacy abroad, and keep us safe from terrorist attacks. Federal employees are Border Patrol officers, FBI and DEA agents, and the providers of critical support services at military installations worldwide.

Public servants take great pride in delivering to each of your constituents the services they deserve and expect from their government. And federal employees are also your constituents as well. The federal workforce has already had their pay frozen for three straight years, their health insurance costs are going up and many of them have been

furloughed several days this year already as a result of sequestration. They are real people with real responsibilities and simply cannot afford to go without a paycheck again.

The Federal-Postal Coalition urges the Congress and the President to end the shutdown and agree on funding the federal government. Moreover, we strongly urge you to vote for H.R. 3223 ensuring that federal employees will be paid for the time they have been furloughed against their will.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Government Employees
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Foreign Service Association
American Postal Workers Union
FAA Managers Association
Federally Employed Women
Federal Managers Association
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys
National Association of Federal Veterinarians
National Association of Government Employees
National Association of Letter Carriers
National Association of Postal Supervisors
National Association of Postmasters of the United States
National Council of Social Security Management Associations
National Federation of Federal Employees
National League of Postmasters
National Postal Mail Handlers Union
National Rural Letter Carriers Association
National Treasury Employees Union
National Weather Service Employees Organization
Organization of Professional Employees at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Patent Office Professional Association
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists
Professional Managers Association
Senior Executives Association

For Further Information:

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