

August 1, 2013

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the over 200,000 managers and supervisors in the federal government whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose the Stop Government Abuse Act (H.R. 2879).

The bill, which combines several pieces of legislation that target the federal workforce, instills a sense of distrust of all federal government employees and undermines the congressionally mandated mission and goals of federal departments and agencies. FMA understands the importance of transparency and accountability within the federal government; however, this legislation is little more than a knee jerk reaction to stories in the news and negatively affects the efficiency and effectiveness of the federal government.

H.R. 2879 caps monetary awards at five percent through fiscal year 2015. This limits merit based performance awards and takes away one of the few incentives left for federal employees to go above and beyond their regular duties to serve the American public. There already is a morale problem with the federal government with only four out of ten federal employees believing they will be rewarded for good work, and this legislation only adds to the problem.

Additionally, the bill authorizes every official interaction with an executive branch employee, either by phone or in person, to be recorded by the other party. No exceptions are provided, nor is there any requirement to notify a federal employee that he or she is being tape recorded. FMA is concerned with the privacy issues this raises, as well as the potential to undermine law enforcement-related investigations.

Federal employees take great pride in their work. They administer invaluable services to American citizens. While they have been demonized recently in the press, they are dedicated patriots willing to do whatever it takes to fulfill their duties. Treating the federal workforce as a scapegoat for the country's woes is not a solution. I urge you to support the men and women within the federal government and oppose legislation that vilifies the federal workforce. Thank you for your time and consideration of our views. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact FMA's Government Affairs Director Greg Stanford at gstanford@fedmanagers.org or 703-683-8700, ext. 104.

Sincerely yours,



Patricia J. Niehaus
National President