

March 19, 2014

The Honorable Ken Calvert
2269 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Calvert,

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 express concern with the Rebalance for an Effective Defense Uniform and Civilian Employees (REDUCE) Act (H.R. 4257).

We are all grateful that the country is winding down from more than a decade of fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, and we understand that there will be challenging reductions in both uniformed personnel and the civilian workforce that supports them. As you know, the President's fiscal year 2015 budget request includes reductions of Army soldiers and Marines, among other cuts. The Pentagon already proposed a five percent reduction to civilian personnel, a twenty percent reduction at the Pentagon, as well as another round of Base Realignment and Closure beginning in 2017. While cuts can be difficult, the enormous 15 percent cut proposed in the REDUCE Act would jeopardize the mission at the Department of Defense (DOD).

From repairing and maintaining aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines, helicopters, fighter aircraft, and advanced weapons systems, to providing healthcare for our nation's veterans, these unparalleled civilian contributions are an essential piece of the imperative mission of our nation's defense. The reductions already planned by the Pentagon are difficult enough. The reductions as called for by H.R. 4257, three times beyond what DOD deemed necessary, would negatively impact not only the affected civilian workforce, but also the uniformed men and women who depend directly upon their support.

As always, we stand ready to meet with you to discuss this and other issues regarding the defense of our great nation, and management issues across government. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact FMA's Director of Government Affairs, Greg Stanford, at gstanford@fedmanagers.org or 703-683-8700. Thank you for your time and consideration of our views on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Patricia J. Niehaus
National President