



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Affiliated with the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO

February 12, 2013

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) and the 110,000 federal employees we represent throughout the United States and abroad, I am writing to urge you to vote "No" on H.R. 273, which is expected on the House floor this week. This bill aims to extend the pay freeze for federal employees for a third consecutive year instead of granting them the very modest 0.5% pay adjustment that will go into effect if no action is taken by Congress.

Federal workers have already made significant sacrifices to help ease the burden of our national debt. We swallowed hard and accepted a pay freeze lasting more than two years, which has been a great burden to federal workers and their families that are struggling just like everyone else in this tough economy. In addition, new hires into the civil service are now forced to contribute nearly four times as much to their pensions to receive the same retirement benefit as their peers. In all, federal employees have sacrificed \$103 billion toward deficit reduction through cuts to pay and benefits over the last three years.

Sadly, these targeted deficit reduction measures aimed at federal workers' pay and benefits represent just the tip-of-the-iceberg in how the U.S. civil service is being squeezed by spending cuts. Thousands of federal workers throughout government are being laid off as the result of the current continuing resolution, which as you know required billions in cuts across federal agencies. Further spending reductions are possible in Fiscal Year 2013 as the result of sequestration or an agreement lawmakers could potentially reach to avert it. All of these cuts to discretionary programs fall disproportionately hard on the federal workforce.

Let's not forget who these federal employees are: They are the nurses and doctors who care for our veterans when they return from the war zone. They are the men and women who make certain our food and water supply is safe for our families' consumption. They are the border patrol agents that protect our nation from drug and human smuggling. These hard-working, middle class Americans have dedicated their lives to public service; they deserve better.

Federal employees have already done more than their fair share when it comes to deficit reduction, and with such broad cuts to agency budgets on the horizon they will certainly be asked to sacrifice more. However, asking federal employees to accept another year of frozen pay in addition to what they are already contributing is nothing more than adding insult to injury. Enough is enough.

If you have any questions, please contact NFFE Legislative Director Randy Erwin (202-257-0948 or rerwin@nffe.org).

Again, NFFE strongly urges you to vote "No" on H.R. 273.

Sincerely,

William R. Dougan
National President