

Support the Gingrey-Bridenstine THUD Amendment to Limit Use of Official Time

Dear Colleague:

We urge you to support our amendment to H.R. 4745, the FY15 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations bill. This amendment would prohibit any funds from being used to pay federal employees for any period during which those employees are using official time for union activities.

Under current law, federal employees can use official—taxpayer funded—time to perform union activities while they are on the clock at work. Some federal workers—including at least 35 employees at the Department of Transportation—spend their entire workday laboring on behalf of the union, rather than performing the function the agency hired them to do. This means that taxpayers are forced to pay union officials salaries under the guise that these officials are federal employees working on behalf of the taxpayer.

In FY 2011, the most recent year for which data is available, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) reported that official time cost taxpayers **\$155,573,739.25** agency wide. That same year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development spent more than \$2 million on official time, while the Department of Transportation spent a staggering \$17 million paying federal employees to do union work.

It is time we put a stop to this special interest subsidy to unions. We must ensure that federal employees are working on behalf of the taxpayer, as they were hired to do. We believe we must tighten our belts and find ways to make the federal workforce function more efficiently, and this amendment is an important first step in that process.

We urge you to support this amendment so that all employees at the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development are required to work on behalf of the taxpayer.

Should you have questions about this amendment, please contact Sally Rose Larson in Congressman Gingrey's office at 5-2931 or via email at sally.larson@mail.house.gov or Christopher Ingraham in Congressman Bridenstine's office at 5-2211 or Christopher.Ingraham@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Phil Gingrey, M.D.
Member of Congress

/s/

Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress