



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

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

June 21, 2013

Hon. Barbara A. Mikulski, Chairwoman
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Tom Udall, Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services & Gen. Government
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Chairman Udall,

On behalf of the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) and the 110,000 federal employees our union represents throughout the United States and abroad, I urge you to fund the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) at the full amount requested by the President for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) - \$25.49 million. The FLRA may be small, but it is a critical agency for the federal workforce. It also is essential for maintaining efficient labor-management relations in the federal government.

Unfortunately, the FLRA was greatly underfunded from FY 2004-2009. During this period the budget was slashed by \$6 million, about 20%. The result of this budget cut was a drastic reduction in staff from 184 employees down to 114, about 40%. This virtual gutting of the FLRA greatly diminished the services provided by the agency. In 2010, when the FLRA received a much-needed \$2.1 million budget increase, the agency rebounded nicely. Employment at the agency increased to 131 and services once again improved. However, since then, the agency has had flat budgets year after year until FY13, when sequestration forced a \$1.29 million cut to the FLRA budget. Once again, employment is down (to 123 employees) and this critical agency is struggling for the resources to perform.

Once again, I urge you to fund the FLRA at \$25.49 million, the amount requested by President for FY14. If you have any questions, please contact NFFE Legislative Director Randy Erwin at (202) 216-4451 or rerwin@nffe.org.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

William R. Dougan
Nation President