



December 9, 2013

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Budget Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chair
Budget Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Murray and Ryan:

As you continue working on a budget deal for the coming fiscal years, the Federal-Postal Coalition, which represents more than five million federal and postal workers and retirees, strongly urges you to avoid continuing to financially punish our nation's federal workforce. Media reports have indicated that the committee is strongly considering changes to federal employee pensions that increase contributions and/or reduce benefits.

Federal workers have sacrificed over \$113 billion for deficit reduction since 2011, including a three-year pay freeze and increased pension contributions for newly hired employees. This figure does not include the up to eight furlough days caused by sequestration this summer and a 16-day shutdown in October which resulted in financial hardship and profound anxiety for half the government's workforce and their families.

Given these contributions, we are dismayed to learn that increasing the pension contributions and/or changing the retirement formula for current federal employees is on the table in the budget conference discussions designed to finance a two-year lifting of sequestration. The proposal would effectively cut the take-home pay of federal employees who are already struggling financially. Some refer to these changes as "fees" on the federal workforce. Make no mistake about it – this is a tax on federal employees pure and simple; the only constituency who would be taxed under your proposed budget.

This is simply unacceptable. No other group of Americans has contributed to deficit reduction the way federal employees have. It is time for Congress to do its job and find other ways to reduce the deficit than continually taking from our members whose only sin has been to dedicate their lives to federal service.

We urge Members of the Budget Conference Committee to listen to the thousands of federal employees in their own home states. It is time to arrive at a fair, sustainable and effective solution for ending sequestration without harming those who dedicate their lives to keeping our country and its citizens safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Government Employees
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Foreign Service Association
American Postal Workers Union
FAA Managers Association
Federal Managers Association
Federally Employed Women
International Association of Fire Fighters
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers
Laborers' International Union of North America
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys
National Association of Federal Veterinarians
National Association of Government Employees
National Association of Letter Carriers
National Association of Postal Supervisors
National Association of Postmasters of the United States
National Council of Social Security Management Associations
National Federation of Federal Employees
National League of Postmasters
National Postal Mail Handlers Union
National Rural Letter Carriers' Association
National Treasury Employees Union
National Weather Service Employees Organization
Organization of Professional Employees at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Patent Office Professional Association
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists
Professional Managers Association
Senior Executives Association

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cc: Senate and House Members of the Budget Conference