



National Postal Mail Handlers Union

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Chairman Jodey Arrington
Budget Committee
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Brendan Boyle
Budget Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Arrington and Ranking Member Boyle,

The National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU) represents over 50,000 mail handlers within the United States Postal Service in facilities across America. I write to express concern over the topic of the upcoming Budget Committee hearing, "Examining the Need for a Fiscal Commission Reviewing H.R. 710, H.R. 5779, and S. 3262."

The last time Congress took up a fiscal commission was with the Simpson-Bowles Commission in 2010. While the Simpson-Bowles Commission began with grand ideas of reducing federal spending for the benefit of the national economy as it recovered from the Great Recession, the output of that Commission was to target the pay of postal and federal employees. Federal employees under the General Schedule system saw a three-year pay freeze. Additionally, employee contributions to retirement benefits increased dramatically - 3.1 percent for postal and federal employees hired after 2013 and 4.4 percent for those hired after 2014.

As you examine current fiscal commission legislation, I ask you to reject the notion that the path to addressing the nation's deficit is through cuts to middle-class workers' hard-earned pay and benefits. Reductions like these only result in undermining the hiring process and push applicants away from the Postal Service as a potential employer, which then adds to the depletion of the workforce. The NPMHU reminds the Budget Committee that the pay and benefits of postal and federal employees are not the source of the nation's deficit, and they should not be the solution.

Regards,

Paul V. Hogrogian
National President
National Postal Mail Handlers Union