



April 20, 2015
 Budget Conference Committee
 U.S. Congress
 Washington, D.C. 20515



The following letter was spear-headed by the Federal-Postal Coalition, to oppose any budget resolution that unfairly cuts federal and postal retirement and health benefits. The NPMHU is an active member of this coalition.



Dear Member of the Budget Conference Committee:

On behalf of the nearly five million Americans – federal and postal workers and annuitants – represented by the national member organizations of the Federal-Postal Coalition, we urge you to craft a fiscal year 2016 budget resolution conference report that does not disproportionately target those who carry out the work of this nation – our federal employees and retirees.

Federal employees have already contributed \$159 billion toward deficit reduction since fiscal year 2011, including \$1 billion in lost wages from sequestration-related furloughs in 2013 alone. And yet, the House of Representatives’ budget blueprint takes another \$318 billion from the federal and postal community, forcing this group of the middle-class dedicated public servants to once again shoulder a disproportionate share of the sacrifice. Enough is enough.

With regard to the U.S. Postal Service, the House budget outlined “illustrative” reforms to save \$40 billion over 10 years, including service cuts affecting both the frequency and type of mail delivery. They would harm tens of millions of businesses and households that rely on Saturday and door delivery and simply drive business away. The budget also proposes stripping postal employees of their rights to negotiate over contributions by postal employees for health and life insurance. There are other reforms that can strengthen the Postal Service without hurting postal customers or postal employees.

Several of the provisions assumed in the House budget were originally predicated on the concept of shared sacrifice and recommendations from the Simpson-Bowles Fiscal Commission. Yet, Congress has taken up few of the Simpson-Bowles recommendations aside from those directly affecting the men and women serving our nation in the federal and postal workforce. The House budget was no different. It asked for disproportionate sacrifices from federal and postal employees and retirees, and went far beyond the proposals in the Fiscal Commission report. We ask that you take this opportunity to reverse this trend and stop asking for our nation’s civil servants and retirees to pay for a deficit they did not create.

Coalition members are critically concerned about the inclusion of reconciliation instructions to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, as included in the House Budget Resolution. Given the Committee’s limited jurisdiction over matters involving mandatory spending, any instruction would unnecessarily put at risk the pay, health insurance, and retirement benefits of civil servants and retirees who have already been shouldered the burden of budget savings.

No other group of Americans has contributed to deficit reduction or other congressional priorities in a manner similar to that endured by federal employees. There has been no shared sacrifice. It is time for Congress to find other ways to craft the budget beyond, once again, taking from the middle-class federal employees and retirees who have dedicated their lives to serving the American people and, in the process, driving our best talent away from public service.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

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

1. Bob Goggin, MA SEBM, Paul Hogrogian, National President, Mark Gardner, National Secretary-Treasurer, Bob Losi, Legislative and Political Director, Shawn Sweeney, Recording Secretary and ME SEBM, and Ed Barnes, Steward
2. (l-r) Michael Hora Executive Director MHBP & Asst. to NST, Paul Hogrogian National President, Mark A. Gardner - National Secretary-Treasurer, Richard Lairscey, BP Colorado Springs, Phil Armendarez, BP Grand Junction, Cindy Hoehl-Rinker, Local 321 President, and Don Gonzales Regional Director, Western Region
3. (l-r): Kenneth C. Leftridge Sr. Treasurer, June Harris, President, Tim McKenna, WI SEBM, Richard L. Coleman Sr., IL SEBM, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (MA-D), and Belinda Jackson, Recording Secretary
4. Local 318 stands with Sen. Warren: (l-r) Gary Jones (Tampa), Jack Pickett (Mid Florida), Shauna Jones (JAX NDC), Lawrence Sapp - Vice President, Southern Region and FL SEBM, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (MA-D), Nick Mosezar- Local 318 President, Ronnie Snyder Jr. (Manasota), Alejandrina (Ale) Izaguirre (Royal Palm) and Danny Diaz (Royal Palm)