

May 13, 2008

The Honorable Ike Skelton  
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The undersigned unions strongly urge lawmakers on the House Armed Services Committee to support two key amendments to the FY2009 National Defense Authorization Act when the legislation is marked up in full committee on May 14:

**BOYDA AMENDMENT:** Representative Nancy Boyda (D-KS) will offer an amendment that would suspend the use of the OMB Circular A-76 privatization process for three years because, in part, of the failure of DoD to follow recent changes in law regarding the A-76 process. The first new law prohibits DoD from taking OMB direction on A-76 decisions. The second new law prohibits automatically recompeting federal employees. DoD has yet to comply with either law. We strongly support the Boyda Amendment, which would suspend the A-76 process until these and other problems can be satisfactorily resolved.

**CUMMINGS-REYES AMENDMENT:** Representatives Elijah Cummings (D-MD) and Silvestre Reyes (D-TX) will offer an amendment that would ensure DoD does not use High Performing Organizations (HPO's) to recklessly downsize the civilian workforce or to deprive federal employees of their collective bargaining rights as well as their rights to negotiate over impact and implementation of the HPO's. HPO's are used by DoD as alternatives to the A-76 process. We do not necessarily oppose the reorganizations that occur as a result of HPO's. However, DoD has used HPO's to arbitrarily eliminate federal employee jobs and bust unions. We strongly support this amendment, which would allow reorganizations to go forward as long as they comply with important workplace laws.

Thank you for the consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY,  
AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO  
COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO  
DEPARTMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS, AFL-CIO  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL  
AND TECHNICAL ENGINEERS, AFL-CIO  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO  
PROFESSIONAL AIRWAYS SYSTEMS SPECIALISTS, AFL-CIO  
TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO  
UNITED AUTO WORKERS, AFL-CIO