

United DoD Workers Coalition

Nat'l Assn. of Aeronautical
Examiners

Nat'l Air Traffic Controllers Assn.

Professional Airways Systems
Specialists

Antilles Consolidated Education
Assn.

Int'l Brotherhood of Boilermakers

Assn. of Civilian Technicians
Communications Workers of
America

Federal Education Assn./NEA

Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers

Nat'l Federation of Federal
Employees

Fairchild Federal Employees Union

American Federation of Gov.
Employees

Nat'l Assn. of Gov. Employees

Int'l Guard Union of America

Int'l Assn. of Fire Fighters

Hawaii Council of Defense
Commissary Unions

Laborers' Int'l Union of
North America

Int'l Assn. of Machinists and
Aerospace Workers

Nat'l Marine Engineers Beneficial
Assn.

Int'l Organization of Masters,
Mates & Pilots

Metal Trades Dept., AFL-CIO

American Nurses Assn.

United American Nurses

Int'l Union of Operating Engineers

Int'l Union of Painters and Allied
Trades

United Assn. of Journeymen and
Apprentices of the Plumbing &
Pipe Fitting Industry of the U.S.
and Canada

United Power Trades Org.

Int'l Federation of Professional and
Technical Engineers

Retail, Wholesale, and
Department Store Union

Seafarers Int'l Union

Service Employees Int'l Union

Sport Air Traffic Controllers

American Federation of State,
County and Municipal Employees

American Federation of Teachers

Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters

Int'l Assn. of Tool Craftsman

(List in-formation)

October 9, 2007

Dear DoD Appropriations Conferee,

The undersigned unions of the United Department of Defense (DoD) Workers Coalition (UDWC) are requesting that you support the bipartisan Inslee/Walter Jones/Van Hollen National Security Personnel System (NSPS) de-fund language as a part of the Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) DoD Appropriations Conference Report.

During consideration of the House bill (H.R. 3222) the Inslee/Jones/Van Hollen amendment was accepted unanimously and without opposition by voice-vote. Although the bill that passed the Senate on October 3rd did not include the NSPS de-fund language, we at the UDWC are asking that the Conferees include this legislative language in the final FY08 Conference Report.

The amendment will prevent the DoD from spending any funds on the labor relations and appeals portions of the costly and misguided NSPS. In particular it will effectively restore the right of DoD workers to collectively bargain (including the ability to bargain Impact and Implementation of a new pay system), reinstate full Veterans Preference when it comes to Reduction-In-Force (RIF) situations, and allow workers the ability to challenge adverse actions to independent arbitrators and to appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) without the fear that DoD will unilaterally overrule their impartial decision making authority. The amendment will however leave in place the ability of the DoD to implement a new pay system.

It is also important to point out that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report (GAO-07-851) earlier this summer, on July 16th, with respect to the costs of NSPS to American taxpayers. While GAO attempted to uncover the true amount of DoD appropriated resources being dedicated toward NSPS, Congress' investigative arm was precluded from doing so. In fact, the GAO Report said that the price of NSPS can't be determined because, "DOD has not established an oversight mechanism to ensure that these costs are fully captured." The Report went on to say that when claiming that the implementation of NSPS would cost taxpayers only \$158 million, DoD failed to, "include any of the typical indirect costs associated with the design and implementation of NSPS such as general administrative services, general research and technical support, rent, and operating and maintenance costs for buildings, equipment and utilities."

The UDWC, and the 600,000 plus DoD workers represented by UDWC member unions, fully supports the bipartisan Inslee/Jones/Van Hollen NSPS de-funding amendment and we ask that during Conference you work to ensure that it is included in the final FY08 DoD Appropriations bill.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, please contact UDWC Chairman, and AFL-CIO Legislative Representative, Byron Charlton at (202) 637-5290.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
Association of Civilian Technicians (ACT)
Department for Professional Employees (DPE)
Federal Education Association, NEA
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT)
International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA)
Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE, SEIU)
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE-IAM)
Seafarers International Union/NMU
Sheet Metal Workers International Association (SMWIA)
United Power Trades Organization (UPTO)