

September 22, 2008

The Honorable John Murtha
Chair, House Subcommittee on
Defense Appropriations
H-149 Capitol
Washington, DC 20005

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chair, Senate Subcommittee on
Defense Appropriations
119 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20010

Dear Chairmen:

The undersigned unions urge conferees to include in the conference report for the FY09 Defense Appropriations Bill a provision that would suspend new OMB Circular A-76 privatization studies in the Department of Defense (DoD). Such a provision would be consistent with the position taken this year by related authorizing committees as well as other appropriations subcommittees, including the House and Senate Armed Services Committees as well as the House and Senate Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittees. Such a provision would also be consistent with earlier suspensions on new A-76 studies in particular agencies that have been included and retained in previously enacted appropriations bills.

The rationale for a suspension is compelling. DoD has failed to comply with two important reforms that were included in the FY08 Defense Authorization Bill that prohibited DoD from 1) carrying out the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) direction to review for privatization as many as 226,000 DoD civilian employees by the end of FY13 and 2) automatically recompeting the jobs of civilian employees in order to adhere to the OMB privatization quotas. According to the House Armed Services Committee, the strain on DoD from carrying out the OMB privatization quotas is actually undermining readiness. Any suspension on new A-76 studies, coming so late in its second term, would hardly interfere with the Bush Administration's prerogatives. However, this OMB would be prevented from continuing to impose its radical and unprecedented A-76 agenda on future administrations.

Sincerely,

**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY,
AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO
DEPARTMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, AFL-CIO
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS, AFL-CIO
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL
AND TECHNICAL ENGINEERS, AFL-CIO
METAL TRADES DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO
UNITED AUTO WORKERS, AFL-CIO**