



GSA Administrator

April 25, 2008

Ms. Colleen M. Kelley  
National President  
The National Treasury Employees Union  
1750 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-4600

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OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Dear Ms. Kelley:

This is in response to your letter dated March 20, 2008, requesting that the General Services Administration (GSA) make the newly announced privately owned automobile mileage reimbursement rate of 50.5 cents per mile effective retroactively to January 1, 2008, rather than March 19, 2008.

In establishing policies governing the authorization and payment of travel and transportation expenses, we must consider protecting the financial interest of the taxpayers as much as possible. The financial and administrative burdens resulting from previous retroactive dates involving reimbursement of money upon agencies' financial and travel systems have proven to be significant enough as to preclude making this new mileage rate retroactive.

However, GSA is also sensitive to the needs of Federal travelers and is taking steps that could make this issue moot in the future. GSA recently announced submission of a legislative package to Congress that contains a provision that will allow the mileage reimbursement rate for privately owned automobiles to automatically adjust to the standard mileage reimbursement rate established by the Internal Revenue Service for tax purposes. This provision will allow Federal employees who use their own vehicles for official business to immediately take advantage of new mileage rates. We hope that Congress will support this legislative change.

I appreciate your interest in GSA's travel program. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Staff inquiries may be directed to Mr. Kevin Messner, Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Governmentwide Policy, at (202) 501-0563.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lurita Doan".

Lurita Doan  
Administrator

U.S. General Services Administration  
1800 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20405-0002  
Telephone: (202) 501-0800  
Fax: (202) 219-1243  
[www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov)