



May 27, 2010

Dear Representative:

As President of the National Treasury Employees Union, with over 150,000 federal employees across 31 agencies, I am writing to urge your opposition to any proposals offered during consideration of H.R. 5136, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, that would freeze federal pay.

A move to prohibit any federal pay raise next year would adversely affect all federal employees, including those civil servants who work side-by-side with our military, whose pay raise was increased in H.R. 5136. Its effects would reach Customs and Border Protection Officers who protect our ports of entry; employees who monitor food safety at the Food and Drug Administration; claims and appeals representatives who deal with the elderly and disabled at the Social Security Administration; Environmental Protection Agency scientists who help protect our environment; and, many others. President Obama's proposed FY11 raise is a modest 1.4%. It is based on the Employment Cost Index (ECI) which measures private sector wage increases. Highly paid political appointees are already slated for a FY11 pay freeze. There is no need to freeze pay for frontline employees, especially when many are suffering in this recession with spouses and other family members unemployed.

I urge you to vote "no" should a proposal be offered to the DOD Authorization Bill to freeze federal pay. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen M. Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Colleen M. Kelley
National President