



February 15, 2011

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 the Rokita Amendment #210, to H.R. 1, the FY 2011 Continuing Appropriations bill. The Rokita amendment bars the use of federal funds for paying federal employees “any increase in the rate of salary or basic pay” for any office or position with the federal government.

Federal employees throughout the government are currently working under a federal pay freeze which has already been enacted into law. The Rokita amendment, which has not been vetted or considered in any congressional hearing, would likely go further than the existing law. It could affect performance based increases, promotions, career ladder increases, collective bargaining agreements, and an array of flexibilities available to recruit and retain our quality federal workforce.

Efforts to block funds for paying federal employees as proposed in this amendment will touch millions of civil servants throughout government, including those who work side-by-side with our military. Its effects would reach Customs and Border Protection Officers (CPBO) 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; Treasury and IRS personnel who administer tax law, and, many others. This amendment is not in the interests of the taxpayers, and will lead to a further loss of talent in the federal government, just at a time when we need it the most.

I urge you to vote NO on the Rokita Amendment #210 to H.R. 1, the Continuing Appropriations bill for FY 2011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen M. Kelley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Colleen M. Kelley  
National President