



December 30, 2016

Dear Representative:

As National President of the National Treasury Employees Union, representing over 150,000 federal employees in 31 different agencies, I am writing to express strong concern with re-instatement of the Holman Rule and to urge you to support Congressmen Cole and Bishop's amendment to the Rules Package for the 115th Congress.

We are concerned about the proposed change to Rule XXI that will be considered by the House Republican Conference this coming Monday. The Holman Rule, first in practice in 1876 and last discontinued in the 1980s, usurped both the authorization and appropriations processes in the House, and resulted in bad policy outcomes by allowing certain categories of legislating on appropriations bills and amendments, namely allowing for hyper-targeted reductions in dollar amounts, as well as in the number of and compensation of government employees. Funding for federal agencies and employees should be determined through the course of a deliberative process, and should not be at the mercy of political floor statements that only serve to destroy Congress' inherent role to provide funding for the federal government's operations and personnel. Federal employees are a core constituency in districts across the country, and the public relies on these individuals for key services—such as receiving tax refunds, crossing the border, and obtaining safe water and medicines.

We strongly support the Cole-Bishop amendment to strike the language in Section 3(a) of the Rules Package, and urge you to vote in support of this amendment. Randomly cutting and targeting federal operations and employees will not shepherd in reform, rather the Holman Rule will only make it harder for the House to pass its annual appropriations measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'A'.

Anthony M. Reardon
National President