



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
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AFL-CIO & CLC

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April 23, 2008

Dear Senator,

I am writing to ask for your support of the *The Fair Pay Restoration Act* (H.R. 2831), a bill aimed at preserving the intent of the *Equal Pay Act of 1963*. The International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) is particularly concerned that a filibuster attempt by some in the Senate could threaten a final up or down vote on this bill. In this regard, IFPTE asks that you vote in support of cloture, followed by a vote in support of the underlying legislation.

In May of last year the Supreme Court voted 5-4 to make it nearly impossible for workers to seek damages in cases involving wage discrimination. In *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company*, the Court stipulated that victims of wage discrimination have only six months from the time that the pay discrimination originated to file a claim seeking relief. However, in the case of Lily Ledbetter it was twenty years later when she discovered that her male counterparts were receiving higher compensation for doing the same job. Unfortunately the Ledbetter case is not a unique one.

This legislation will correct the May Supreme Court decision by returning the law on pay discrimination cases back to the status quo. Workers that are victims of pay discrimination will be permitted to file complaints based on any paycheck they receive in which they believe they have been victims. Moreover, workers can file a claim at any time during their careers. In other words, this bill will restore the right of workers to file wage discrimination complaints when they discover them, whether it be six months from the time it occurred, or in the case of Lily Ledbetter, twenty years later.

Again, IFPTE asks for your support of this important bill. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or IFPTE Legislative Director Matt Biggs, at (202) 239-4880.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,
President