



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

501 3rd Street, NW, Suite 701, Washington, DC 20001
202-239-4880 • FAX 202-239-4881 • www.ifpte.org

PAUL SHEARON
President

MATTHEW S. BIGGS
Secretary-Treasurer

AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

Gerald Newsome
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
ATLANTIC

Mazen Alsabe
NORTHEAST

Ronda Cockrell
SPEEA

Joel Funfar
SPEEA

Laurence Griffin
WESTERN

Gay Henson
EASTERN FEDERAL

Misty Hughes-Newman
CANADIAN

John Mader
WESTERN

Sean P. McBride
ATLANTIC

Ryan Rule
SPEEA

Dr. Leland S. Stone
WESTERN FEDERAL

Scott Travers
CANADIAN

Gus Vallejo
WESTERN

Tina Zellmer
MIDWESTERN

MEMORANDUM

To: All IFPTE Locals
From: IFPTE Legislative Department
Re: Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Appropriations bills status
Date: 12/18/2019

As you all have likely heard, there was deal struck late last week on the final 12 Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) appropriations bills. The bills will be bundled into two Minibus packages and voted on in the House today, and in the Senate thereafter, and before the current continuing resolution expires on December 20th.

There are a number of issues that IFPTE has been working that impact our members and that are tied up in these appropriations bills. Here is a rundown of how some of these – that we currently are aware of – have been resolved:

- Export-Import Bank – Like the funding for federal government agencies, the authorization of the Export-Import Bank expired at the end of FY19 on September 31st. So, it has been extended twice to run concurrent with the appropriations CRs and there was speculation that a deal to extend its authorization could be a legislative rider with the appropriations bills. IFPTE and others in labor and the business community have been [advocating for a long term authorization of](#) the EX/IM bank absent any language that would make it more difficult for some state owned enterprises from accessing bank financing to purchase high-value products. It is our understanding that there is a seven year reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank included as a part of the spending deal;
- Cadillac Tax- As many of you know, IFPTE, in conjunction with the larger labor movement, has been working for years to [permanently repeal the 40% excise tax](#) on health care benefits. These taxes are targeted at some of the better health care benefit packages enjoyed by workers, particularly those negotiated by unions on behalf of their members. There have been several delays that have resulted in this tax not triggering, so we have been urging Congress to permanently repeal the tax. It is our understanding that the tax has been permanently repealed as a part of the spending agreement;
- Federal Employee pay raise: The agreement does include [IFPTE supported](#) House passed language calling for a 3.1% pay raise (2.6 raise, plus .5 locality) for federal employees;
- Federal Employee benefits, pensions: Unlike past years, and despite recommendations to the contrary in the [Trump Administration's FY20 budget proposal](#), cuts to federal employee pensions and health benefits were not targeted as a part of this year's appropriations process. This is largely due to the fact that there is now a Democratic majority in the House who controls the drafting of the appropriations bills and the agenda by which the bills are considered;

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS



- Defunding the imposition of quotas on Immigration Judges and the ability of the DOJ to decertify Judicial Council 2, the National Association of Immigration Judges- Despite the best efforts of [IFPTE, JC2, the unions of the Federal Workers Alliance, and the AFL-CIO](#), language to defund these two items was not included in the final spending deal;
- Defunding the ability of the Federal Services Impasses Panel (FSIP) ability to unilaterally impose draconian contracts on federal unions – This language was included in the House passed FY20 Financial Services appropriations bill, and was worked very aggressively by IFPTE, and in very close coordination with the Federal Workers Alliance, AFGE, the AFL-CIO and other unions. The intent of the language was render some of the impact of the Trump Administration’s union busting Executive Orders less impactful. However, despite the best efforts of IFPTE, our Locals, the labor movement in general, and [hundreds of members of Congress](#), the language was not retained in the final agreement. IFPTE and labor will try to get defund language again next year. However, the sobering reality is that after very aggressive legal and legislative efforts by labor against these EOs, the future of federal collective bargaining rights depends largely on the outcome of next year’s federal elections;
- Defunding the dismantling of the Office of Personnel Management – That language was retained in the final agreement.

These bills are expected to pass both the House and Senate. While the Trump Administration has yet to explicitly state that the president will sign them, it is expected that he will. If something changes on that front, we will let you know.

Lastly, I want to thank all of the IFPTE members and Locals that have worked closely with us here at the International over the last year on these and several other legislative items. Our legislative program here is highly dependent on the grassroots partnership and coordination with our locals. On behalf of both President Shearon and myself, I can’t tell you how much we appreciate your working so closely with us. I do also want to make particular mention of Judicial Council 1/AALJ, Judicial Council 2/NAIJ, Locals 12, 121, 196 and 2001. These Locals literally had members here in DC and on the hill all year (especially JC1/AALJ), and I wanted to particularly mention them.

We will continue to work these as we move into next year, starting with our [legislative conference in February](#), which we encourage all Locals to participate in.

Happy Holiday’s, and In Solidarity,
Matt

--