

FEDERAL-POSTAL COALITION

May 20, 2011

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus:

On behalf of the 4.6 million federal and postal workers and annuitants represented by the undersigned national member organizations of the Federal-Postal Coalition, we respectfully request a meeting with you regarding the ongoing discussions on federal budget policy that are being conducted by Vice President Joe Biden.

In particular, we are gravely concerned about proposals that would cut federal retirement and health insurance benefits, continue the federal pay freeze for three additional years beyond the two already enacted, and make sharp reductions in federal agency staffing.

America's federal workforce performs critical jobs that demand skill and dedication. Their impact throughout America is felt in countless ways. For example, these are the food inspectors who ensure the safety of our food supply, the law enforcement agents and prosecutors who track down and bring to justice dangerous criminals, and the nuclear inspectors intent on preventing another nuclear disaster. We need to attract and retain the best and brightest federal employees. We can ill afford to lose our most talented and experienced employees at a time when our nation faces unprecedented challenges.

Federal and postal employees understand the need for a realistic federal budget. They are doing their part to lower government costs. However, the recommendations of the chairs of the Fiscal Commission and the House-passed Budget Resolution to cut federal pay, health insurance, retirement benefits, and agency staffing by \$375 billion over ten years go too far and

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are not an acceptable solution. Even in these tough economic times, America cannot afford a second-best civil service.

We will be happy to work with your scheduler to set up a meeting. Our point of contact for this will be Beth Moten, Legislative and Political Director, American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE). She can be reached at 202-639-6404 or motenb@afge.org.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Foreign Service Association (AFSA)
American Postal Workers Union (APWU)
Federally Employed Women (FEW)
FAA Managers Association (FAAMA)
Federal Managers Association (FMA)
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys (NAAUSA)
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)
National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA)
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)
National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS)
National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS)
National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU)
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)
National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA)
National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)
Organization of Professional Employees of Dept of Agriculture (OPEDA)
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)
Professional Managers Association (PMA)
Senior Executives Association (SEA)