

The following is a letter sent out by the INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS, AFL-CIO & CLC & SPEEA.

October 2, 2012

Hon. Harry Reid, Majority Leader Hon. Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader
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Hon. John Boehner, Speaker. Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives, H-232 The Capitol H-204 The Capitol
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Dear House and Senate Leaders:

As we enter Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13), the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers asks that, when the lame-duck 112th Congress returns after the election, you act to quickly defuse the doomsday device of sequestration. Regardless of the outcome of the elections, we urge you to work promptly and in a bipartisan manner to pass a clean bill that simply repeals Public Law 112-25. This would then show that Congress is prepared to reject last year's brinksmanship and instead re-embrace its primary constitutional responsibility of passing Appropriations Bills for FY13 before the continuing resolution expires next March. All sides agree that implementation of P.L. 112-25 would be disastrous for America. The blind and reckless draconian cuts would needlessly trigger the loss of millions of good American jobs, dramatically decrease the government's ability to meet our national security and other critical national needs, and would drive the U.S. economy into recession. This catastrophic scenario is entirely avoidable and it is the responsibility of the House and Senate leadership to make sure that America does not go down that self-destructive path. The Appropriations process is the constitutionally sanctioned method of determining how to spend the people's tax dollars. Thoughtful analysis, judicious choices, and compromise are needed to chart a course that optimizes savings, while preserving critical programs. It would be an abdication of that Constitutional responsibility to rely instead on sequestration. America is not facing a near-term fiscal crisis and the long-term budgetary imbalance is not due to the expense of running federal agencies. Any near-term budgetary concerns can be addressed with calibrated adjustments to Appropriations starting in FY13, while the longer-term budgetary concerns driven largely by growth in Medicare and Medicaid can be solved by thoughtful increases to revenue and intelligent health-care cost controls. When facing a similar entitlement crisis 30 years ago, Speaker O'Neill, Majority Leader Dole, and President Reagan compromised on a balanced approach that significantly extended the health and promise of Social Security. We ask that the 112th and 113th Congresses honor that pragmatic and successful American tradition.

Sincerely,
Gregory J. Junemann,
President