



January 13, 2015

The Honorable Gerald Connolly
House of Representatives
2238 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Connolly:

The Federal-Postal Coalition - comprised of 31 national organizations that collectively represent five million federal and postal workers and retirees - welcomes introduction of your legislation that would extend a meaningful 3.8 percent pay raise to federal employees for calendar year 2016. Our groups strongly support this bill, and commit to seek its enactment in this new Congress.

As our nation's economy continues to recover, employers across the country are responding to tightening labor markets by increasing workers' wages and salaries. Recent Department of Labor data reflects an uptick in the size of private-sector pay raises, and given the recent three-year pay freeze for federal workers, followed by two years of one percent across-the-board pay adjustments, Congress should ensure that federal workers are not left further behind the rest of the nation's workforce. With the 2015 one percent across-the-board pay increase taking effect this month, increases in federal wages now lag private-sector raises by 6.3 percent over the last five years.

Like other employers, federal agencies must be in a position to offer competitive salaries and wages for both recruitment and retention purposes. Federal workers are presently engaged in thwarting the Ebola outbreak, leading discovery projects on Mars, and ensuring that the nation's borders remain protected. Your bill ensures that the public's needs will be met by maintaining a skilled workforce.

The Coalition thanks you for your continued strong leadership on federal employee issues, and for your efforts to safeguard the nation's civil service. We look forward to our joint work in the 114th Congress. Should you require any further information, please contact Coalition chair Alan Lopatin at alopatin@narfe.org.

Sincerely,

Alan Lopatin
Chairman

American Federation of Government Employees

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees

American Foreign Service Association

American Postal Workers Union

FAA Managers Association

Federal Managers Association

Federally Employed Women

International Association of Fire Fighters

International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers

Laborers' International Union of North America

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

National Air Traffic Controllers Association

National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys

National Association of Federal Veterinarians

National Association of Government Employees

National Association of Letter Carriers

National Association of Postal Supervisors

National Association of Postmasters of the U.S

National Council of Social Security Management Associations

National Federation of Federal Employees

National League of Postmasters

National Postal Mail Handlers Union

National Rural Letter Carriers' Association

National Treasury Employees Union

National Weather Service Employees Organization

Organization of Professional Employees of the USDA

Patent Office Professional Association

Professional Aviation Safety Specialists

Professional Managers Association