

December 17, 2013

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
1429 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kilmer:

On behalf of the over 200,000 managers and supervisors currently serving our nation in the federal government and whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), including our members stationed at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport, we extend our deepest thanks for introducing legislation (H.R. 3744) that provides back pay to federal employees furloughed over the summer due to cuts caused by the sequester.

The men and women of federal workforce are dedicated to supporting their fellow Americans and their communities. As you know, this summer several federal departments and agencies were forced to furlough members of the workforce due to sequester restraints. As a result, federal employees strained not only to meet congressionally-mandated missions and goals on limited budgets, but also to meet personal financial demands. Like their private sector counterparts, federal employees face growing fiduciary demands, such as increased health care costs, and often support their entire families on a single paycheck. Over the summer, the Federal Employee & Education Assistance Fund (FEEA) saw an overwhelming amount of financial assistance applications, and provided almost \$60,000 in loans throughout June and July to those burdened with furloughs. So much demand was placed on FEEA, it had to suspend loan applications due to lack of funds.

Adding to this financial hardship, inaction from Congress resulted in a sixteen day partial government shutdown, affecting federal employees across the board. These hardworking men and women are grateful Congress provided back pay after the shutdown. FMA supports your efforts to provide back pay for sequester furloughs as well, as these hardships are scheduled to continue for years to come. Department of Defense civilians were hit particularly hard, but many other agencies were forced to furlough their workers. H.R. 3744 would grant much needed relief to all of these employees.

Thank you for your continued support of the men and women in the public sector. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact FMA's Government Affairs Director Greg Stanford at gstanford@fedmanagers.org or (703) 683-8700.

Sincerely,



Patricia J. Niehaus
National President