

September 10, 2013

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the over 200,000 managers and supervisors in the federal government whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), I am writing to respectfully urge you to develop a functional federal budget instead of yet again relying on a continuing resolution.

Federal managers understand the burden you face. Unless some spending measure is agreed to within Congress, the federal government will once again face a shutdown at the end of the fiscal year. No federal manager or employee wants that to happen; they are dedicated patriots who tirelessly serve their communities day in and day out. They fulfill congressionally-mandated missions and goals, administering invaluable services throughout the nation and abroad. They are responsible for ensuring food safety, protecting national borders, and aiding the armed forces. At a minimum, they deserve adequate resources.

By relying on a continuing resolution, Congress tethers federal departments and agencies to outdated budgets that do not address current demands of government programs. Continuing resolutions force managers and supervisors to focus on short-term operations and less on their core missions, impeding efficiency and ultimately costing the government, and by extension American taxpayers, more money in the long-run. Additionally, the ongoing reliance on continuing resolutions undermines agencies' abilities to anticipate funding levels and allocate resources in an effective fashion to boost productivity and the delivery of services. Providing agencies with timely and adequate budgets is the only course of action to avoid such challenges. Private sector business would never manage a budget this way, and neither should the federal government.

The American public does not deserve an inappropriately funded government. With the limits caused by the continuing resolution, federal departments and agencies will not be able to fully meet their missions and goals. Federal agencies are unable to provide managers and supervisors the resources necessary to achieve their missions when Congress delays passage of comprehensive spending bills. Enormous stress is placed on federal programs when continuing resolutions fund operations, as agencies are financially hindered from obtaining the necessary resources required to handle rising workloads. Thank you for your time and consideration of our views. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact FMA's Director of Government Affairs, Greg Stanford, at gstanford@fedmanagers.org or at 703-683-8700, ext. 104.

Sincerely yours,



Patricia J. Niehaus
National President