September 10, 2021

Dear Representatives Case, Kahele, Pappas, Kuster, Pingree, Golden, Scott, Luria, Wittman:

As the Executive Officers of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, and the Presidents of IFPTE Locals 1, 4, 12 and 121, representing thousands of federal workers at all four of our nation’s public shipyards, we are writing to ask for your co-sponsorship and support of the following two amendments expected to be offered by Washington Congressman Derek Kilmer to HR 4350, the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA):

1) **Amendment Number 48** to provide for Fair Labor Standard Act (FLSA) protected overtime pay for Navy employees working on Naval vessels Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS). Unfortunately, and despite the best efforts of Congressman Kilmer, overtime pay for Navy workers abroad, including those servicing nuclear powered aircraft carriers, has not been made permanent, and thus must be renewed every few years. These are the very same workers that are entitled to overtime pay when working in the Continental United States (CONUS). There are a limited number of shipyard workers in our nation capable of performing this work and who are tasked with leaving their families for months at
a time to work on ships abroad. Just as they are entitled to overtime pay when they do this work here at home, they should also be entitled to the overtime pay when they work abroad. This amendment seeks to expand these overtime protections beyond Japan to Navy workers anywhere in the world.

2) **Amendment Number 49** calling for an independent study as to the number of impacted Navy shipyard workers and the lost wages and missed promotions because of the misguided decision in December 2016 by the Navy Office of Civilian Human Resources (OCHR) to cancel the Accelerated Promotion Program (APP). These workers were hired by the shipyard with the understanding that if they accomplished all the requirements called for within the APP program, they would be promoted and compensated accordingly. However, the very effective APP program, which had been in place since the 1980’s, was unilaterally and without explanation terminated in early 2016, and put back in place in December of the same year, leaving the workers who fulfilled their APP requirements during that period out in the cold. This amendment will help to identify those workers, and the scope of their wage and other losses.

It is our understanding that these amendments will be submitted to the Rules Committee for potential full House consideration to the FY22 NDAA. As members of Congress representing districts that include one of our four public shipyards, and/or represent federal workers employed at the shipyards, we ask that you add your support to these amendments prior to Rules Committee consideration, and during the House NDAA floor process.

Thank you.

Matthew Biggs, Gay Henson,
President Secretary-Treasurer

Corey Henderson, Eudes James,
Local 1 President Local 4 President

Thomas Calkins, Jamie Uyeunten,
Local 12 President Local 121 President/
Local 121 President/ Eastern Federal Area Vice President

Tiera Beauchamp,
Local 12 Executive Vice President