

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2010

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-218 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman Obey:

As you know, on November 29, 2010, President Obama announced a proposal to freeze pay for all federal civilian, non-uniformed employees for Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012. According to the White House, the two-year pay freeze will save \$2 billion for the remainder of FY 2011, \$28 billion over the next five years, and more than \$60 billion over the next 10 years. It is our understanding that the Office of Management and Budget has submitted legislative language to implement the President's proposed pay freeze.


We support the President's effort to reduce the deficit and ensure we put our nation back on a path to long term financial sustainability. And we know federal employees are willing to do their part to help our nation in this effort. But we do not believe civil servants should be unfairly targeted outside the context of a comprehensive approach to the federal budget simply because they carry out the work of the federal government.

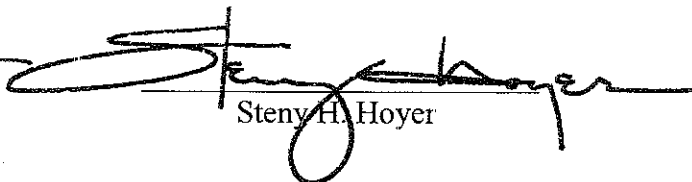
Despite politically motivated claims to the contrary, Bureau of Labor Statistics data show that federal employees are paid 24 percent *less* than their private sector counterparts, a disparity that has *increased* over the past year.

The federal civil service is a talented and dedicated workforce that needs to be carefully managed and developed. Every day, federal employees provide vital services that help keep our nation healthy, safe and strong. We therefore believe that any adjustment to federal employee compensation should be reviewed on an annual basis.

For these reasons, we ask that any proposed adjustments to federal pay beyond FY 2011 be reserved for the 112th Congress, where federal pay can be considered in the context of a more comprehensive approach to deficit reduction. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


James P. Moran


Steny H. Hoyer



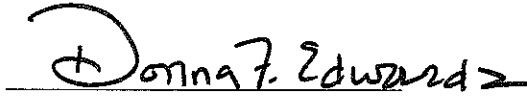
Chris Van Hollen



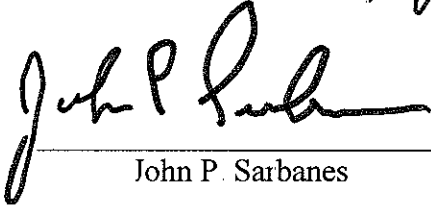
Frank R. Wolf



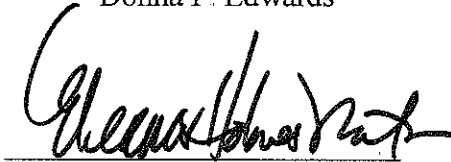
Gerald E. Connolly



Donna F. Edwards



John P. Sarbanes



Eleanor Holmes Norton