

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

CHAIRMAN—COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE

TRANSPORTATION-HUD

STATE AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS

CO-CHAIR—TOM LANTOS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

December 3, 2013

233 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4610
(202) 225-5136

13873 PARK CENTER ROAD
SUITE 130
HERNDON, VA 20171
(703) 709-5800
(800) 945-9653 (IN STATE)

110 NORTH CAMERON STREET
WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(540) 667-0990
(800) 850-3463 (IN STATE)

wolf.house.gov

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
Budget Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Budget Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
Budget Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Budget Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Ryan, Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Van Hollen, and Ranking Member Sessions:

I appreciate efforts by the conference committee to reach an agreement on common discretionary topline spending levels for fiscal years 2014 and 2015. It is imperative that the Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate have an agreed-upon number to produce responsible, strategic and forward-thinking appropriations bills, rather than continuing down the path of sequestration's indiscriminate cuts.

While I have been encouraged to read that progress towards an agreement is being made, I am deeply disappointed to learn that several provisions impacting the federal workforce are being considered as offsets to sequestration. Over the last several years, federal employees – VA doctors and nurses, CIA, FBI and DEA agents and NIH researchers; and let's not forget the victims of the recent shootings at the Navy Yard – have repeatedly been used as pawns in budget negotiations. To date, changes in pay and pensions for the federal workforce have already generated \$113 billion in savings.

I continue to believe that the best way to address our nation's crushing fiscal challenges is through a broad, bipartisan agreement that puts all of our nation's spending on the table, including entitlements and spending in the tax code as well as smaller proposed changes like federal employee programs. This was exactly the model of the Simpson-Bowles proposal, which I have strongly supported and repeatedly voted for on the House floor. Regrettably, the only recommendations that continue to be considered are the ones that impact the federal workforce. This "cherry picking" of the Simpson-Bowles recommendations avoids dealing with the real drivers of our deficit. The sacrifice must be shared. I cannot, in good conscientious, support a budget agreement that asks the federal workforce to once again disproportionately feel the brunt of Washington's failure to share the pain.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

**WHY DOES THE
CONGRESS ALWAYS
PICK ON FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES?**