



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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PAUL SHEARON
Secretary-Treasurer

May 29, 2018

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Hon. Paul Ryan, Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Charles Schumer, Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leaders Pelosi and Schumer:

Article 1 of our Constitution vests all legislative authority – the power to write or alter federal law – exclusively with Congress, with the President empowered exclusively to faithfully execute them. One of the fundamental tenets of those elected to Congress, particularly the most conservative members, is that all elected officials are wholly constitutionally constrained by the original intent of the framers with Congress the first among equals. Given that fact, it is a reckless violation of our Constitution for President Trump, and indeed any President, to unilaterally write or alter federal law. Title 5, which is the law of the land when it comes to most federal civilian personnel matters, has been extensively litigated and is settled law. Extremist legislators have, for years, tried to gut it but bipartisan majorities of both houses of Congress have made it consistently clear that they largely support Title 5. Congress has only agreed, from time to time, to pass minor tweaks in order to improve upon what is largely viewed as a successful legal framework that provides great benefit to the American people by ensuring that graft, patronage, and politics do not corrupt the federal workforce.

This past Friday, President Trump disregarded the constraints on his constitutional powers and unilaterally proclaimed new laws of the land. Therefore, it behooves all of you, as the highest ranking elected Congressional officers, to take extreme umbrage with the three Executive Orders signed by President Trump on May 25th because they usurp Congressional authority as well as undermine settled policy and law.

If you agree with the President, then you should put these Executive Orders forward as a bill for an up or down vote in the House and Senate. If it passes, with President Trump's signature, it becomes the law of the land and we must all honor and abide by it. However, if Congress does not pass it, then it is your moral and constitutional obligation to take all available legal action to block the implementation of these invalid federal proclamations issued in defiance of the clear intent of Congress, the only body empowered to make or alter federal law.

If would be a dangerous abdication of your congressional responsibilities to remain silent in the face of executive tyranny. President Trump is not a king. Our forefathers and foremothers fought a daring and bloody war to free Americans of British royal tyranny. Our grandparents fought a war to free the world from German, Italian, and Japanese fascist tyranny. Our parents stood firm against Russian and Chinese communist tyranny. Today, the overwhelming majority of the American people – Democrats and Republicans -- are relying on you to confront and repel a new, internal, autocracy that threatens the very core of our democracy. This transcends the banality of partisan politics and the esoterica of labor law as it represents a serious threat to the freedom of every American that demands to be confronted and stopped.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Junemann,
President

Paul Shearon,
Secretary-Treasurer