



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **IFPTE responds to Administration's FY19 budget, infrastructure proposals** **Both proposals take aim at working families, call for massive privatization**

WASHINGTON, DC – The International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), representing upwards of 90,000 workers, issued the following statements in response to today's rollout of President Trump's Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) budget, and infrastructure requests.

President Gregory Junemann:

"IFPTE urges Congress to deem the budget 'dead on arrival', as many of the items of importance to IFPTE members are draconian in nature, and not worthy of consideration by hill lawmakers. When it comes to federal workers, there is an A to Z dismantling to the pay and benefits of our civilian workers, including a pay freeze in 2019, and a move toward so-called pay for performance – a pay system that has not only failed time and time again in the federal government, but has also been proven to be discriminatory. This budget also seeks to unjustly erode collective bargaining protections in the federal sector. IFPTE reminds our locals and our members that this budget is simply a proposal, and one that we will largely work against with our friends on Capitol Hill."

Secretary-Treasurer, Paul Shearon:

"While IFPTE is disappointed with many of the items in both the infrastructure and budget proposals, we are particularly concerned with the recommended federal employee cuts, the proposed privatization of the NASA space station along with cuts to astrophysics and earth science, and the meager investment in infrastructure which is intended to lead to the privatization of State and Local government jobs, and shift the infrastructure burden from the federal government to already strapped state governments. The space station privatization proposal is particularly puzzling, as it is very hard to see where a private company could reduce annual costs to run the space station from \$3 billion annually to \$1.5 billion, while making a profit. This is true even if you were to assume what is as close to impossible as it gets - that there would be a company prepared to operate and maintain the space station in six years. When it comes to infrastructure spending, the administration is only proposing \$200 billion over ten years, expecting States to cover the other \$1.3 trillion, something that is also out of the realm of reality, like most of this budget proposal, and recycling the idea of privatizing the Tennessee Valley Authority, an attempt that was floated and failed miserably during the last Administration. IFPTE will work against many of these misguided ideas."

The President's FY19 budget, calls for the following cuts to federal employees:

- Freeze pay in 2019;
- Increase in employee pension contributions as much as 5.4% of salary, without a pension increase;
- Cut pension earnings by replacing the 'high-3' calculation with the 'high-5';
- Undertake a study that could lead to the elimination of the FERS defined benefit for new hires;
- Raid the TSP earnings of federal workers who invest their retirement money in the G-Fund;
- Eliminate the COLA for current and future federal retirees;
- Combine and reduce sick, vacation and holiday time off;
- Reduce step increases and replace with so-called 'pay for performance';
- Eliminate the Social Security supplement.

The full budget can be [found here](#), with the [analytic perspectives](#) of the federal employee pay and benefit cut proposals starting on page 65.

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