

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



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## **LEGISLATIVE ALERT!**

(202) 637-5057



June 14, 2011

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 United States Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to express our support for a modest increase in the Federal Labor Relations Authority's (FLRA) budget in the FY 2012 Financial Service and General Government Appropriations bill. Specifically, we support an increase of \$3.56 million dollars above the administration's request, which would bring the agency's budget to \$30 million.

In order to meet the FLRA's anticipated workload, it is vital that the agency be funded adequately. Since FY 2004, the office of General Counsel was forced to reduce its staffing by approximately 36 percent, while there has been a 23 percent increase in cases filed with the FLRA in the last two years alone.

The FLRA is also playing a critical role in the implementation of Executive Order 13522 by providing necessary training to both management and workers. As you know, EO 13522 created labor-management forums to further enhance efficient delivery of government services.

The FLRA is a critical part of the civil service system's collective bargaining structure. The agency suffered serious budget cuts under the Bush administration—severe enough to inhibit the agency's ability to perform its function. Those cuts were designed to make the agency ineffective and thereby undermine federal employees' legal rights to engage in collective bargaining and other representation activities.

The efforts of the Obama administration to rebuild the FLRA have resulted in moderate improvements in service. While we understand the constraints of the current fiscal climate, the modest budget increase of \$3.56 million that we are requesting would make an enormous difference in the ability of the FLRA to perform its mission adequately.

We urge your support in maintaining this important agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Samuel", written in a cursive style.

William Samuel, Director  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT