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LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

(202) 637-5057

May 9, 2012



Honorable Howard P. McKeon, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Armed Services
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Minority Member Smith:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge you to reject efforts to revive the A-76 privatization process when the Committee marks up the FY 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) later this week. We strongly urge you to oppose the following amendments offered by Representatives Mike Coffman (R-CO) and Scott Rigell (R-VA).

COFFMAN AMENDMENT (008): This language would prevent DoD from utilizing federal employees rather than contractors when it would be cost effective to do so, or when the work is too important or sensitive to privatize. DoD has successfully used insourcing to begin to rebalance the federal and contractor workforces. In addition, insourcing has been used to ensure in-house performance of inherently governmental and critical functions—e.g., preparing budgets, overseeing contractors, and developing regulations. According to the Pentagon, insourcing saved \$900 million in FY10 alone.

COFFMAN AMENDMENT (064): This language would arbitrarily reduce the civilian workforce “to 50 percent of the number of uniformed services”, contrary to statutory language that requires the Department to manage the civilian workforce by budgets and workloads, rather than by arbitrary cuts, freezes, or constraints based on unproven formulas.

RIGELL AMENDMENT (029): This language would repeal the moratorium requiring DoD to fix longstanding operational problems and adhere to the FY08 language requirement to inventory its service contracts and integrate the results into the budget process.

RIGELL AMENDMENT (030): This language would promote the privatization of work closely associated with inherently governmental functions, which include such important and sensitive functions as formulating budgets, developing policy, supervising contractors, and interpreting regulations.

RIGELL AMENDMENT (031): This language would allow contractors to re-write the methodology DoD uses to determine the costs of performance of civilian employees, military personnel, and contractors, despite the fact that both the FY11 and FY12 NDAA's codified the use of DoD's current methodology.

Finally, we urge you to oppose any effort to prevent DoD from utilizing federal employees rather than contractors when it would be cost effective to do so, or when the work is too important or sensitive to privatize. DoD has successfully used insourcing to begin to rebalance the federal and contractor workforces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Samuel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William Samuel, Director
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT