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Legislative Alert: OMB Circular A-76 in the FY2012 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill

Abstract

[Excerpt] On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge conferees to retain the safeguard against the controversial OMB Circular A-76 privatization process in the Corps of Engineers (CoE) in the FY 2012 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, which has been included as a bipartisan general provision since the FY 2008 version of this funding measure.

Keywords

AFL-CIO, Legislative Alert, OMB Circular A-76 in the FY2012 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill

Comments

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RICHARD L. TRUMKA
PRESIDENT

ELIZABETH H. SHULER
SECRETARY-TREASURER

ARLENE HOLT BAKER
EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

(202) 637-5057

October 17, 2011

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairwoman, Senate Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
S-128 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Feinstein and Chairman Frelinghuysen:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge conferees to retain the safeguard against the controversial OMB Circular A-76 privatization process in the Corps of Engineers (CoE) in the FY 2012 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, which has been included as a bipartisan general provision since the FY 2008 version of this funding measure.

The safeguard was originally included because of an attempt during the Bush administration to privatize the operation, maintenance, and repair of locks and dams, as part of a larger effort to force CoE to contract out almost 8,000 jobs. According to CoE's own job descriptions and vacancy announcements, operators and mechanics make locking decisions and direct lock traffic, thereby affecting the life, liberty, and property of private persons, thus rendering their workload inappropriate for contractor performance under law.

As then Senate Energy and Water Chairman Pete Domenici (R-NM) concluded in FY 2007 report language shutting down all CoE A-76 privatization reviews: "Millions of dollars have been spent over the last several years on an initiative to contract out Government jobs in order to make the government more efficient. The Committee fails to see any evidence of cost savings or increased efficiency by undergoing these expensive competitions. Therefore, the Committee directs that no funds provided in this account or otherwise available for expenditure shall be used to comply with the competitive sourcing initiative." (Emphasis added).

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT