

**ROBERT J. WITTMAN**  
1ST DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, SEAPOWERS AND PROJECTION FORCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
ENERGY AND MINERAL  
RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE  
WATER, POWER, AND OCEANS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL  
SHIPBUILDING CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL  
CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL  
PUBLIC HEALTH CAUCUS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 16, 2018

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
2055 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4261

DISTRICT OFFICES:

STAFFORD OFFICE  
95 DUNN DRIVE SUITE 201  
STAFFORD, VA 22556  
(540) 659-2734

MECHANICSVILLE OFFICE  
6501 MECHANICSVILLE TURNPIKE SUITE 102  
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23111  
(804) 730-6595

MIDDLE PENINSULA OFFICE  
508 CHURCH LANE  
P.O. Box 3106  
TAPPAHANNOCK, VA 22560  
(804) 443-0668

[WWW.WITTMAN.HOUSE.GOV](http://WWW.WITTMAN.HOUSE.GOV)

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

I am writing to express opposition to the letter you received from Dr. Jeff T.H. Pon, Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, on May 4, 2018 in which he recommended cutting benefits of federal employees through legislative proposals.

As a Member of Congress with a significant number of federal workers and federal retirees in my district, I have witnessed many of these same proposals already considered and rejected over the past several years. Approximately 30.9% of the federal civilian workforce consists of veterans. Recycling discredited proposals targeting federal workers is disruptive to them, and demoralizing to all middle-class civilian workers.

Federal employees have already sacrificed. They were subject to a three-year pay freeze from 2011 through 2013, which the CBO estimates will save \$98 billion over ten years. From 2014 through 2016, federal employees received lower Cost-of-Living (COLAs) than required by law, saving \$62 billion. Congress has twice increased required employee contributions to the federal retirement programs for another estimated \$21 billion in savings. And in 2013, over 750,000 federal employees were furloughed due to sequestration cuts, which is estimated to have cost federal employees over \$1 billion in lost wages in 2013 alone. In total, these combined shared sacrifices by federal workers have amounted to \$182 billion since 2010.

These legislative proposals would increase the amount federal employees pay toward their retirement fund and is equitable to a permanent pay cut. Dr. Pon's proposals also call for the reduction or elimination of COLAs for current and future retirees in the Federal Employment Retirement System (FERS). By law, FERS COLAs are already required to be reduced below what is provided under Social Security. The proposal eliminating supplements for employees who retire before they collect Social Security at age 62 penalizes our federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, and air traffic controllers who are forced to retire early due to the physically demanding nature of their jobs.

I understand that we are currently fighting to reduce our crippling deficit and debt problem, however this should not be on the backs of our federal workforce. The federal workforce is full of dedicated and committed citizens who exemplify patriotism in everything they do, and I am proud to represent the tens

of thousands of federal employees and retirees who live in the First District of Virginia. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you reject these legislative proposals, and I look forward to working with you in the future to find ways to reduce our nation's debt.

Thank you for considering my views,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Wittman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress