

JON RUNYAN
3RD DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY



COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE,
OCEANS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3003

March 14th, 2012

Mr. John Berry,
Director, U.S. Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street, NW
Washington, DC

Dear Director Berry:

I am writing to encourage the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to correct a pay disparity among workers at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL), which is located in my Congressional District in New Jersey. Specifically, it is my understanding that the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee (FPRAC) could be re-voting on their earlier 2010 recommendation to move the McGuire and Ft. Dix employees into the Lakehurst rate. It is my hope that the FPRAC reaffirm its 2010 recommendation, and that OPM immediately implement it.

As you are aware, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process through the Department of Defense (DoD) consolidated McGuire AFB, Ft. Dix, and Lakehurst Naval Air Station into JB MDL. The Joint Base, with the United States Air Force as its lead operating Service, is the first of its kind, and all military service branches are now represented at this one joint facility. Additionally, JB MDL is home to Ft. Dix Federal Correctional Institution, as well as other federal, non-DoD agencies. JB MDL employs over 40,000 men and women, and is one of the largest employers in New Jersey.

While the Joint Base has largely been a resounding success, one area which remains a critical issue is wage parity for wage grade employees working at the base. Before the three installations were combined, employees at McGuire and Ft. Dix were paid at the Philadelphia wage rate, while Lakehurst employees were paid at the New York City wage rate. After consolidation, this discrepancy remained, resulting in employees who do the same job, on different ends of the Joint Base, being paid different wages. My office has been told that approximately 600 federal employees could be affected by this discrepancy. General Service employees at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst were all transferred into the one higher New York City pay rate previously, so this wage grade pay parity is especially unfair with the two types of Federal workers being treated differently.

MT. LAUREL
4167 CHURCH ROAD
MT. LAUREL, NJ 08054
(856) 780-6436
(856) 780-6439 (FAX)

WASHINGTON, D.C.
1239 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4765
(202) 225-0778 (FAX)

Runyan.House.Gov

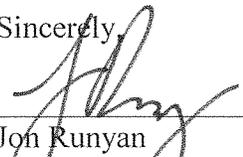
TOMS RIVER
600 MULE ROAD
TOMS RIVER, NJ 08757
(732) 279-6013
(732) 279-6062 (FAX)

Since I was elected to Congress, I have continuously worked on this issue with your office as well as House Committees. Specifically, in May of 2011, I wrote your office asking you to implement the 2010 FPRAC recommendation that no (non-RUS) General Schedule locality pay area would be subdivided between more than one Federal Wage System Wage area. Additionally, on June 6th, 2011, I wrote your office, along with the entire New Jersey Congressional delegation, asking for this FPRAC recommendation to be implemented.

In addition to working with OPM, I have asked Chairman Issa of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to investigate this matter. Finally, I successfully included report language in the FY2012 National Defense Authorization Act requesting OPM's coordination with DoD in ensuring that DoD employees at the Joint Base are all paid at the New York city pay rate. This legislation was signed into law by the President on December 31, 2011.

I am troubled that OPM continues to study, delay, and re-vote on implementation of the 2010 FPRAC recommendation. This wage disparity was government created, and should be government remedied. The employees at the Joint Base have waited long enough, and deserve to have their pay adjusted to the Lakehurst (New York) rate. I hope that FPRAC reiterates its prior recommendation to correct this disparity, and OPM implements this correction as quickly as possible. Your staff may contact Joe Heaton on my staff at 202-225-4765 if we can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Jon Runyan
Member of Congress

Cc: Sheldon Friedman, Chairman -- Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee