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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
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OCEANS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

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

September 28, 2012

President Barack Obama
United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to strongly encourage you to direct 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. The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee (FPRAC) has recommended several times since 2010 to move the McGuire and Ft. Dix employees into the Lakehurst rate. It is very important that OPM immediately implement this important change.

As you may be 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 in the nation 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 the second largest employer in the State of New Jersey.

While the Joint Base and consolidation into one installation has largely been a resounding success, one area which remains a critical issue is pay 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. Additionally, after the 2005 BRAC, 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. My office has been told that approximately 600 federal employees could be affected by this discrepancy.

Since I was elected to Congress, I have continuously worked on this issue with my fellow Members of the New Jersey delegation, the House Armed Services Committee, and the House

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Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. In addition, I have submitted testimony to the FPRAC and urged the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to implement the change.

Specifically, in 2011, and in 2012, I wrote the Office of Personnel Management asking that they 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.

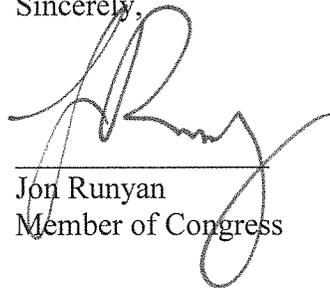
Additionally, on June 6th, 2011, I wrote OPM again, along with the entire New Jersey Congressional Delegation, asking for this FPRAC recommendation to be implemented.

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 you on December 31, 2011.

I am troubled that OPM continues to study, delay, and re-vote on implementation of the 2010 FPRAC recommendation and their subsequent recommendations to correct this inequity. This wage disparity was government created and should be government remedied. The employees at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, many of whom are veterans, have waited long enough and deserve to have their pay adjusted to the Lakehurst (New York) rate. I applaud FPRAC for reiterating its prior recommendation to correct this wage grade pay disparity, and ask that you instruct OPM to implement this correction as quickly as possible.

I respectfully appreciate your attention to this matter, which impacts hundreds of hardworking public servants and their families. Your staff may contact Joe Heaton on my staff, at 202-225-4765 if we can be of any additional assistance. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Runyan', written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jon Runyan
Member of Congress