



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

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KENNETH W. COOPER
International President

PAUL A. NOBLE
International
Secretary-Treasurer

September 23, 2024

VIA EMAIL

To: All Members of the United States Congress

**Re: IBEW Letter of Opposition - September 2024 Government
Shutdown**

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the more than 838,000 active and retired members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write to you to strongly oppose any potential government shutdown and attempts to insert poison pills into the fiscal year 2025 continuing resolution (CR) expected to be voted on this week. The IBEW represents thousands of dedicated federal employees across various sectors and members in the private sector who would also be harmed by a government shutdown. I urge you to consider the profound impact a government shutdown can have on the livelihoods and well-being of these public servants, U.S. national security, and the nation as a whole.

The United States federal government employs a large number of IBEW members who provide crucial electrical services across various government agencies and functions. These skilled workers play essential roles in national defense activities, naval and Coast Guard shipyards, federal buildings and equipment maintenance, communication projects, navigational locks and dams, electric power generation plants, and national infrastructure maintenance. Each of these functions is vital to the well-being and security of our citizens, and a government shutdown can disrupt these services, causing unnecessary harm and instability.

In particular, the perspective of federal employees working in procuring essential national defense assets, such as naval submarines, demands special attention. These individuals possess unique expertise critical to U.S. national security. A shutdown could halt essential procurement processes, leading to delays and potential vulnerabilities in our defense capabilities. National security should never be compromised due to political disagreements.

Beyond the negative impacts a government shutdown would have on the federal workforce, the IBEW represents workers in construction, electrical generation, transportation, telecommunications, manufacturing, rail, and other sectors in every state and every congressional district in the country. IBEW members' livelihoods are predicated on market stability, which includes the federal government providing stable "rules of the road" and not shutting down.



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The IBEW urges you to prioritize the well-being of our dedicated federal workforce and the economic stability of the United States. With only a few days left to avoid a government shutdown, I ask that you support a clean spending bill that honors the bipartisan funding agreement.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. The IBEW will be scoring a CR vote on the [IBEW Vote Scorecard](#).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth W. Cooper".

Kenneth W. Cooper
International President

KWC:bag