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January 25, 2019

President Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

Now that we have reached a bipartisan agreement to reopen the government, I write to request information on how quickly workers who have been working without pay or furloughed will receive back pay. I also write to inquire about the remedies your Administration will make available to existing contractors and small businesses that were also denied payment during the shutdown.

For 35 days, over 800,000 federal workers have gone without pay. The prolonged shutdown has left many of them struggling to pay their mortgage, buy groceries for their families, and secure basic repairs to their homes. These Americans raised their hand to serve our country in the federal workforce. Many have spent decades working tirelessly on our behalf – protecting our airports, defending our coasts, inspecting our food, preparing our tax returns, and managing critical programs in research, space, and public health. They deserved far better than this pointless and destructive shutdown.

Now that the government is on the verge of reopening, these workers deserve a clear plan from the Administration for the full and prompt restoration of lost income over the duration of the shutdown, consistent with the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act you signed earlier this month. One recent study estimates that the federal government owes workers affected by the shutdown a total of \$6 billion.¹

Please provide information about your Administration's plan to compensate all federal workers affected by the shutdown as well as affected contractors and small businesses as soon as possible. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

¹ http://www.sentierresearch.com/StatBriefs/furloughedworkers_833.pdf