



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers



NFFE News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2009

Contact: Cory Bythrow, Communications Director

Phone: (202) 255-9950

NFFE GETS CLARIFICATION ON OPM FEDERAL PAY REFORM INITIATIVE

Washington, D.C. – Last Friday, National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) National President Richard N. Brown contacted Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Director John Berry seeking clarification on certain aspects of OPM’s federal pay reform initiative.

The call came in response to widespread speculation that the new plan, discussed at a press availability held by Director Berry on Wednesday, would institute sweeping changes to the GS pay system, including a shift to pay for performance throughout government. NFFE adamantly opposed attempts under the previous administration to institute so-called “pay for performance” plans that lacked fairness, transparency, and objectivity.

Berry emphasized the need to work together to shape a new performance appraisal system; one that makes good sense to employees, managers and the public. In doing so, he promised to work alongside NFFE and other unions as the reforms take shape.

“Director Berry assured me that this is not an attempt by OPM to repackage what we feel are ill-conceived Bush-era pay schemes,” said Brown. “Berry envisions bringing together all of the stakeholders to develop the best possible pay system for the federal workforce. While merit pay flexibility to reward high performers may be a component of a new pay system, we do not expect to see proposals that even closely resemble the so-called pay for performance plans put forward under the previous administration. He hopes to shape a new approach to performance management, not just a reward system for star performers. Everyone agrees that more needs to be done to reward high performers, and we are eager to explore these ideas with the administration. Director Berry has demonstrated a good-faith approach to this reform, which is a necessary first step to begin these discussions. We will be working with them every step of the way to make sure we get this right.”

###

Established in 1917, the National Federation of Federal Employees is the oldest union representing civil service federal employees. NFFE currently represents 100,000 federal employees government-wide, including virtually all rank-and-file workers at Passport Agency. NFFE is affiliated with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. For more information, go to

www.nffe.org.