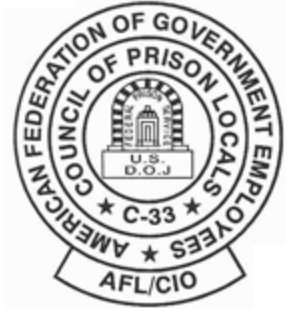




AFGE Local #
Council of Prison Locals #33, AFL-CIO
Facility Type
Town, State



Date

TO: The Honorable Senator's Name

FROM: Your Name and Title

SUBJECT: FY 2011 Funding for the Bureau of Prisons

Dear Senator **Name**:

I am the Local Union President of AFGE Local #, AFL-CIO at the **Facility Type** in **Town, State**.

I am respectfully asking for your assistance in our efforts to include the Federal Bureau of Prisons in anomaly language in the event of an additional continuing resolution for the Fiscal Year 2011 budget. In the 2009 continuing resolution, the Bureau of Prisons was one of the few federal agencies who received such language, allowing our agency to operate under the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year rather than at the previous year's appropriated level.

Currently, the proposed FY2011 budget for the Bureau of Prisons from the Obama administration is 6.5 billion dollars. This budget proposal will increase the agencies Salaries and Expenses budget by 447.5 million dollars, funding that is desperately needed to hire a projected 2,516 new correctional workers. Over the last 10 years, there has been a dramatic increase in federal inmate population (current inmate population is at 210,000, a net increase of over 60,000 inmates since 2000 and approximately 7,000 inmates in the last year alone). Staffing levels have not kept pace with the increasing number of inmates placed in our system; if we wished to return to the safe ratio of staff to inmates that the agency operated under for decades, we would need to hire over 9,000 new staff. In order to make an earnest attempt to restore the Bureau of Prisons to a semblance of safe levels of staffing, the increased S&E funding in the proposed budget is crucial. As new adult offenders continue to pour into the system, I don't believe that we can operate safely through a prolonged continuing resolution without the funding for additional staff.

The Obama administration's proposed FY2011 budget for the Bureau of Prisons also includes a 170.5 million dollar increase in our Buildings and Facilities budget; this funding is also critical to our operations in the near future. Currently, the Bureau of Prisons is dangerously overcrowded, operating at 38% above rated capacity on a national average (high security facilities are housing inmates at over 52% of their rated capacity). The proposed increase in B&F funding will facilitate the purchase of the high security prison facility in Thomson Illinois, adding a desperately needed 1,600 high security beds to the BOP and helping to relieve the overcrowding mentioned above. Anomaly B&F funding will also enable the BOP to activate and staff the two completed facilities at Mendota, CA and Berlin, NH, bringing 3,000 medium security beds online; both facilities are sitting empty at this moment, their activation frozen because of the current CR.

As a member of the Senate Appropriation Committee, we recognize that you are in a position to help us with these issues. In the event that we enter into another continuing resolution, we legitimately need anomaly language that will allow the Bureau of Prisons to operate under the proposed 2011 rate of funding of 6.5 billion dollars. As a Union leader in the Bureau of Prisons, my primary concern is the safety of our staff; I believe that asking our agency to operate at 2010 funding levels through a further prolonged continuing resolution would make it nearly impossible for us to safely accomplish our mission.

If you have any questions, you may contact me in the following ways:

Union Office Phone: #
Union Office FAX: #
Cell Phone: #
Work E-mail: [Your BOP Email](#)
Home e-mail: [Your Union Email](#)

Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Your Name
President, AFGE Local #
Facility Type
Town, State
Council of Prison Locals