

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 14, 2013

Dear Representative,

We, the undersigned organizations dedicated to the principles of free enterprise and limited government, urge you to support Rep. Phil Gingrey's H.R. 107, *The Federal Employee Accountability Act*, which would ban a wasteful practice commonly known as "official time," under which unionized federal employees conduct union business—sometimes even including political activities—while on public duty.

Citing data from a forthcoming agency report, U.S. Office of Personnel Management associate director of employee services Angela Bailey has stated publically that federal workers devoted nearly **3.4 million hours** conducting union business while on official duty in 2011 - costing taxpayers an estimated **\$155 million**.

By prohibiting this egregious activity, *The Federal Employee Accountability Act* would save the taxpayers an estimated **\$1.3 billion over ten years**. At a time when the federal government lurches from one fiscal crisis to another, this is money we can no longer afford to squander on political favors to private special interests. We wholeheartedly agree with Rep. Gingrey's November 30 letter to OPM Director John Berry, in which he states that, "it is absolutely necessary to ensure that government employees spend their time serving the interests of their employers, namely the American taxpayer."

CEI, along with the below allied organizations, urge every member of Congress to support *The Federal Employee Accountability Act* to end the wasteful subsidy to organized labor that is official time.

Sincerely,



Matt Patterson,
Senior Fellow,
Competitive Enterprise Institute



Grover Norquist,
President,
Americans for Tax Reform



James Valvo,
Director of Policy,
Americans For Prosperity



Amy Ridenour,
Chairman,
National Center
For Public Policy Research



Drew White,
Government Relations Deputy,
Heritage Action for America



Chris Prandoni,
Executive
Director,
Alliance For
Worker Freedom