

January 28, 2019

The Honorable Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

On behalf of the nearly 400-member companies of the Professional Services Council, I write to express our support for your legislation—the End Government Shutdowns Act (S. 104)—and to urge the Congress to amend, prioritize and enact this bill as expeditiously as possible. PSC is the voice of the government technology and professional services industry, representing the full range and diversity of the government services sector.

The impact of a lapse in appropriations on the government contractor community was significant, wide-ranging, and increased every day the shutdown continued. Tens of thousands of contractor employees lost work and/or pay and, unlike their federal employee counterparts, will not receive “back pay” even now that the government has reopened, absent congressional action. Contractors were unable to have invoices paid, even for work that was performed prior to the shutdown. Business of all sizes saw their capital dry up, severely limiting cash flow and their ability to retain critical employees. Some contractors, including and especially small businesses, may not be able to continue to operate even as the government reopens.

PSC believes that your legislation represents a reasonable approach to eliminating the adverse impacts of future government shutdowns on our national security, U.S. citizens, and federal agency missions.

PSC appreciates your diligent efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of a lapse in appropriations. However, we urge you to remove the automatic one percent reductions in all spending after the first 120 days and the repeated cuts every 90 days thereafter under a Continuing Resolution. Imposing such across-the-board cuts is arbitrary and can harm meritorious programs and projects.

PSC looks forward to continuing to work with you and your cosponsors as this legislation moves through the Congress. We thank you for your leadership on this important issue. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know. I can be reached at (703) 875-8059 or at chvotkin@pscouncil.org.

Sincerely,



Alan Chvotkin, Esq.
Executive Vice President and Counsel