



## PROFESSIONAL MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

*An Association for Federal Managers and Management Officials*

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May 24, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney  
Director  
U.S. Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Director Mulvaney:

On behalf of the Professional Managers Association (PMA), the nonpartisan professional association of management and non-bargaining unit employees at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) I write in response to the President's proposed fiscal year 2018 budget request that was announced this week.

I continue to be alarmed by the way the IRS budget continues to be cut with the expectations that the agency will still be able to carry out its congressionally mandated duties and provide outstanding customer service. As you know, since 2010 the IRS has seen well over \$1 billion in resources cut from agency budgets, with staffing-work levels reaching untenable levels. If the President's proposal to further cut the IRS' budget by 2.1 percent (\$239 million) is enacted, the agency is poised to lose 5,800 full time employees.

The IRS collects 93% of revenue that funds activities of the federal government, including the President's priorities, yet the ability of the agency to collect revenue due to it by law is being stretched to the breaking point by persistent cuts to the agency budget and workforce. More concerning is the viability of our nation's voluntary tax compliance system, which continues to be reduced by cuts to the enforcement budget of \$149,188,000 or another 3.1% and 1,300 fewer FTE's than FY 2017. The IRS enforcement programs collected more than \$54 billion in FY 2016, a return on investment (ROI) of about \$5 to \$1.

I also write to share my strong concerns about the proposals contained in the budget that target federal employees and annuitants for cuts and deficit reduction. The hard-working men and women who serve this nation in federal service have already borne \$120 billion in cuts to pay and benefits in recent years. The Administration's proposals to strip an additional nearly \$200 billion of earned pay and benefits from federal workers – many of whom planned their lives and retirements based on an employment contract with the federal government – sends the wrong signal about the value of work performed on behalf of American taxpayers. Further, I am deeply concerned about the effects of these proposals, should they be enacted, including the proposed elimination of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, on the ability of the government to attract and retain the best and brightest to serve their fellow citizens.

All of this stated, as the Administration moves forward with implementing the President's agenda, including the reorganization and federal workforce order, PMA stands ready to work with the Administration to develop a more effective and efficient government that can best serve the American people. I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you or the relevant member of your staff to discuss these important issues, and I can be contacted at [BurgerPMA@aol.com](mailto:BurgerPMA@aol.com).

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Burger  
Executive Director