

Statement by Marcus Hill

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With the enactment of the continuing resolution and the subsequent reopening of federal departments and agencies, we are pleased to see the government return to operational status after the longest shutdown in our nation's history.

We welcome the recent guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget, in [Reopening Departments and Agencies](#), which directs agencies to "take all necessary steps to ensure that offices open in a prompt and orderly manner." Likewise, the Office of Personnel Management memo, [Employee Pay, Leave, Benefits, and Other Human Resources Programs Affected by the Lapse in Appropriations](#), formally addresses back pay, benefit continuity and rescission of workforce reductions in light of the new CR.

These memos are important, not only because they provide the practical foundation for the workforce to resume full operations, but because they reinforce a simple truth: shutdowns are counterproductive, expensive, disruptive and avoidable. When the federal government is forced to hunker down rather than move forward, agencies lose momentum, employees lose morale, and taxpayers lose confidence. When the federal government is forced to hunker down rather than move forward, agencies lose momentum, employees lose morale, services to citizens and businesses suffer, and taxpayers lose confidence.

Representing the nation's career senior executives, SEA will continue to work with the Administration and advocate for the protection, stability, and effectiveness of the career leadership corps, ensuring they have the support and continuity needed to serve the public effectively through challenges like these. Our organization remains optimistic that this episode will serve as a wake-up call. We urge leadership in both Congress and the Administration to work constructively now, and in the months ahead, to ensure that the recurring cycle of appropriations panic does not force another lapse in January. Our nation's federal workforce and the public they serve deserve nothing less than continuous, unimpeded service.