



PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

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The Honorable George V. Voinovich
SH-524, Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3504

Dear Senator Voinovich:

On behalf of the Partnership for Public Service, I would like to applaud you and your colleagues for your leadership in addressing the issue of Senior Level (SL) and Senior Technical (ST) compensation in recent legislation. The Partnership would like to express its support for S.1046 the Senior Professional Performance Act of 2007 as it moves to the Senate floor.

In 2003, as part of the new pay-for-performance system, the pay cap for the Senior Executive Service (SES) was raised. However, SL and ST professionals did not witness the same adjustment to their compensation system at this time. Traditionally the two professional groups had compensation systems that were more closely aligned so this move was a departure from previous practice.

Senior Level and Senior Technical professionals in the federal government include some of the greatest scientists and technical experts in our country. They perform high level functions that are vital to ensuring our country's economic competitiveness and national security. At a time when there is an increasing demand for individuals with science and engineering backgrounds it is critical that we offer compensation models that will allow the federal government to compete for this critical talent.

Furthermore, making the SL and ST pay systems equivalent to the SES pay system would support efforts on the part of agencies to develop "dual-track" career paths such that their best scientific or technical talent can be compensated for what they do best and individuals are not required to assume broader management responsibilities simply to receive an increase in pay.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on this issue and offer our support for this bill. If we can be of assistance in any way please do not hesitate to contact me, Kristine Simmons or Margot Conrad of the Partnership staff at 202-775-9111.

Very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Max Stier
President and CEO
Partnership for Public Service