

CWA

Communications Workers of America
Legislative Department
Shane Larson, Director



March 24, 2015

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the officers and members of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), I am writing to urge your support for the Congressional Progressive Caucus's (CPC) People's Budget when it comes to the House floor for a vote this week.

The federal budget is a moral document that should reflect the priorities of the American people. The CPC's budget contains real, pro-worker values by providing a framework of bold proposals aimed at putting America on the right path towards economic and social justice, and a free and fair democracy. The best way to reduce future deficits is to ensure that Americans have good jobs that pay the bills and help grow our economy, which is exactly the approach taken by the CPC budget. The CPC budget also takes important steps to protect our democracy for future generations so that they will not be burdened with the crooked system established by Citizens United, McCutcheon and other policies that allow the super-wealthy undue control over our democracy.

While our economy has begun to see stronger growth, job creation is still being held back by devastating federal budget cuts that undermine investments in our future, reduce public sector employment and leave our infrastructure in shambles. This year's House Republican budget represents more of the same, with little room to invest in growing our infrastructure and cuts to vital programs like Medicaid that help keep working families out of poverty. In contrast, the People's Budget would create 8.4 million good-paying new jobs by 2018 with smart new investments that help grow our economy. It also ensures that our tax code works for working people by closing tax loopholes for the super-wealthy, oil and gas companies, and companies shipping jobs overseas in order to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child tax Credit. It would also make sure that the jobs created are, in fact, good jobs by supporting an increase in the minimum wage and protecting workers' right to organize.

The People's Budget also takes two important steps toward ensuring that our trade policy works for all Americans. First, it includes the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act, which will provide the necessary tools to combat currency manipulation as the unfair trade subsidy that it is. Currency manipulation by other countries costs the U.S. hundreds of thousands of jobs, thereby increasing our trade deficit and, in turn, our budget deficit, which is why combating currency manipulation should be at the top of Congress's trade agenda. Second, it includes H.R. 1088, the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act, which would ensure that the TAA program is structured to address the changing nature of globalization by ensuring that manufacturing, service and public sector workers whose jobs have been displaced by trade are all covered by the program.

The principles and priorities presented in the People's Budget reflect those of the vast majority of working class Americans and their families. But to make sure these principles are never again

skewed or forgotten, the CPC budget adopts a new public financing system for campaigns. In the era of Citizens United and McCutcheon, we must seek paths to ensure that the voice of the people is not drowned out by Super PACs and dark money. By empowering smaller donors in a public financing system, this budget weakens the stranglehold on our democracy currently enjoyed by corporations and the rich.

CWA strongly supports the People's Budget authored by the Congressional Progressive Caucus and urges your support for it. The principles of fairness and economic justice illustrated in this budget will help empower the working class and enable all of us to reach for and achieve the American dream.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane Larson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shane Larson
Legislative Director
Communications Workers of America