

NTEU

The National Treasury Employees Union

November 28, 2007

VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Honorable Lurita A. Doan
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
18th and F Streets, NW
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Administrator Doan:

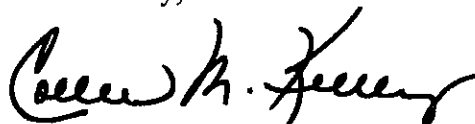
On behalf of the National Treasury Employees Union and our more than 150,000 federal workers in 31 government agencies, I am writing to respectfully urge your immediate action in raising the mileage reimbursement rate for federal employees who use private vehicles for official government work.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has raised the standard mileage rates used to calculate deductibility for taxpayers who use their cars for business purposes. Under the IRS's new action, the standard mileage for the use of a car for business will be 50.5 cents per mile, effective January 1, 2008. I am requesting your cooperation in raising the rate for government employees who use their vehicles for official business to at least the same 50.5 cents per mile.

As you know, the General Services Administration (GSA) has the authority to raise the reimbursement rates for federal employees who must use privately-owned vehicles in the performance of their official duties. The current mileage reimbursement rate for federal employees is only 48.5 cents per mile, which is often insufficient to cover the costs of driving a car on government business. As you know, many regions in the country are now facing gas prices that exceed \$3 and \$4 dollars per gallon. In view of the rapidly fluctuating gas prices and the recent action by IRS to raise the rate for the private sector, I urge you to increase the rate for federal employees as well.

Your immediate action on this is paramount. Last year, the government rate was not raised to equal the private sector level until February, 2007, despite an early commitment by GSA that the effective date would be January 1st. As you can imagine, timely mileage reimbursement to our public servants is critical when many of them must rely on using their vehicles for work. I am requesting that the entire process be expedited so that federal employees will benefit from a January 1, 2008 effective date, the same as employees in the private sector.

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Kelley
National President