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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 15, 2016

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DEAN, NEW JERSEY DELEGATION

The Honorable Beth F. Cobert
Acting Director
U.S. Office of Personnel Management

Dear Acting Director Cobert:

Six months ago today, the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee (FPRAC) recommended by majority vote that the Office of Personnel Management move the wage grade employees of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JBMDL) from the Philadelphia, PA wage area to the New York, NY wage area.

Despite this recommendation and the time your office has had to consider it, no action has been taken by OPM to finalize and implement this recommendation. I am writing to you again today to respectfully request that you move forward and accelerate efforts to achieve full pay parity for federal employees on JBMDL.

By way of background, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) created 12 Joint Bases, including what is now JBMDL. After the Joint Base was formally established in 2009, OPM designated the General Schedule employees working on the former-McGuire AFB and former-Fort Dix bases as working in the New York region, but did not include the wage grade employees.

These employees work on the same installation—not only as the salaried employees in the higher pay locality area, but as the wage grade employees on the former-Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station—and they are unfairly paid 7% less than their counterparts for the same work.

Again, I urge you to accept FRAC's recommendations and issue final regulations that fix this outdated policy that pays some employees a lower rate for the same jobs performed across the base.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter and if you require additional information, please reach out to my Legislative Director, Cate Benedetti.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Smith".

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress