

FEDERAL WORKERS ALLIANCE

COLLECTIVELY REPRESENTING OVER 300,000 FEDERAL WORKERS

June 8, 2020

Dear Senator:

The Federal Workers Alliance (FWA) represents 300,000 federal employees across the federal government. We are writing today to urge you to oppose the confirmation of Catherine Bird as General Counsel to the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA).

Ms. Bird is not fit to serve as General Counsel to the FLRA and her confirmation to that position would have deleterious effects on the federal workforce. The General Counsel of the FLRA must provide unbiased guidance and investigation into unfair labor practices. The General Counsel must further determine union representation matters and impartially guide both managers and union officials in their responsibilities under the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute (FSLMRS).

Ms. Bird is not the impartial and unbiased counselor required to lead at the FLRA. Ms. Bird's record at the Department of Health and Human Services, as it faced charges of unfair labor practices and violations of the FSLMRS, is undisputed. HHS, under Ms. Bird, failed to bargain in good faith or uphold its responsibilities under the same law that Ms. Bird would now be tasked with effectuating as General Counsel.

This nomination is another in a series of well-documented attempts by the President to derail the intent of Congress by placing in agencies biased political operatives that would seek to destroy them. Her contempt for the FSLMRS and the bargaining rights of federal workers granted by Congress is apparent. Her record of bad faith bargaining at HHS and at other agencies, like the VA, is disqualifying.

For these reasons we urge you to oppose this confirmation.

If you have any questions, contact FWA legislative co-chairs Matt Biggs at (202) 239-4880 or Steve Lenkart at (202) 216-4458.

Sincerely,

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO (AFT)
Federal Education Association/National Education Association (FEA/NEA)
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots (MM&P)

Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (MEBA)
Metal Trades Department, AFL-CIO (MTD)
National Association of Government Employees, SEIU (NAGE)
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)
National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO)
Overseas Federation of Teachers, AFT, AFL-CIO
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)
Patent Office Professional Association (POPA)
Seafarers International Union/NMU (SIU)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART)
SPORT Air Traffic Controllers Organization (SATCO)
United Power Trades Organization (UPTO)