AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

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May 20, 2010

Ms Susan Tsui Grundmann
Chairman
Merit Systems Protection Board
1615 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20419-0002

By e-mail and regular mail

Re: Merit Systems Protection Board's Open Government Plan

Dear Chairman Grundmann:

This is in response to your April 28, 2010 letter inviting the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) to comment on the MSPB's Open Government Plan. I appreciate your soliciting feedback from AFGE and hope that this will be the beginning of a productive dialogue. I applaud the Obama administration's initiative to increase the level of openness in government. In particular, the MSPB's solicitation of amicus briefs in cases of significant impact and plans to hold oral argument in significant cases will greatly increased AFGE's ability to advocate on behalf of fair treatment for federal employees.

I have two suggestions for improving the Open Government Plan. First of all, while the publication of data sets on the Data.gov website seems like it would provide useful information to the public, my staff has been unable to download the data in a comprehensible format. The data sets need to be reformulated in a more user-friendly manner. My second suggestion concerns the type of data that the MSPB should disclose on its website. I would like to see the website include information on the number of cases which were decided in favor of the agency, the number that were decided in favor of the employee and the number that were resolved through settlement after an appeal was filed with the Board.

I look forward to working together with you to improve the functioning of the MSPB.

Sincerely,

John Gage

John Gage
National President

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