



Sent via e-mail March 1, 2025
Dear Representative/Senator:

We are hearing from Federal workers all over the State of Michigan about the negative impact of the DOGE and the executive actions that to us appear to be an attack on the very idea of a non-partisan civil service. We need our state's Members of Congress to speak up and push back against the contradictory and illegal 'resign or be fired' email action, summary firings of probationary employees who are doing their jobs well but happen to be new to the Federal service or just new to a position, reclassifying Feds to "at-will" status subject to loyalty tests (harking back to the 19th century "spoils system"), the assault on citizen's private data, and the arbitrary and illegal shuttering of Federal agencies created and funded by the will of the people through Congress. The common thread is the wanton destruction of Federal services that Michigan citizens need through a misguided attack on a professional and dedicated Federal workforce.

Our members are engaged in public service. Nationwide, nearly a third of federal workers are veterans. In Michigan, our civil servants deliver our mail, protect our borders, support the military, care for our veterans injured in the line of duty, help our seniors apply for their earned Social Security benefits, show up for all of us in national emergencies, administer the crop insurance program, provide technical assistance in farm communities, provide weather forecasts, provide coastal restoration, support maritime commerce, work to eliminate invasive species endangering commercial fisheries in our Great Lakes, manage our national forests including harvesting timber and fighting wildfires, and a multitude of other background services that enable and enrich American lives and communities.

We know that the Federal workers in the National Park Service were an early target of DOGE. The seven national parks, national lakeshores, and national historic areas in Michigan are not flashy. We do not have the drama of the Grand Canyon or Yosemite, or the Grand Tetons. Our parks, though, serve as favored recreational activities of Midwestern families looking for a nearby, affordable getaway.

The Michigan Center for Data Analysis, an element of the state government, estimated on Feb 16, 2024, that tourism employs 10% of the Michigan workforce. North of Gaylord and into the Upper Peninsula over 20% of the workforce is employed in tourism.

<https://www.michigan.gov/mcda/insights/2024/02/16/michigan-hospitality-and-tourism>

In a Sep 10, 2024 report the National Park Service stated,
In 2023, 2.8 million park visitors spent an estimated \$273 million in local gateway regions while visiting National Park Service lands in Michigan. These expenditures supported a total of 3,730 jobs, \$139 million in labor income, \$237 million in value added, and \$413 million in economic output in the Michigan economy. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>

Secondary impacts on the economy included hotels, restaurants, gas, groceries, camping, and a multitude of other small and family-owned businesses found around the sites of the national park services. Any reduction in the availability of services in the National Parks in Michigan will impact our statewide economy.

Michigan Federation: www.narfe.org/mi

Note: MLIVE Michigan reported on Sep 30, 2024, that Sleeping Bear Dunes attracted 1.5 million visitors in 2023. These visitors brought nearly \$200 million dollars with them. Based on numbers available in Sep 2024, 1.6 million visitors were projected for 2024.

<https://www.mlive.com/life/2024/09/sleeping-bear-attracts-15-million-annual-visitors-bringing-nearly-200m-with-them.html>

Further, MLIVE reported on Sep 6, 2024, that Pictured Rocks had nearly one million visitors in 2023 who spent \$45 million in the area. This spending supported 544 local jobs.

<https://www.mlive.com/life/2024/09/pictured-rocks-brings-in-457m-in-local-tourism-dollars.html>

The actions of DOGE and the Administration Executive Orders have significant adverse impact on our state and in each of our Congressional Districts.

Michigan	Federal Government Workers in District	Margin of Error	Federal Workers as % of All Employed	Michigan	Federal Government Workers in District	Margin of Error	Federal Workers as % of All Employed
District 1	9,069	1,570	2.60%	District 8	4,861	1,093	1.40%
District 2	6,809	1,468	1.90%	District 9	6,878	1,268	1.80%
District 3	4,171	1,339	1.04%	District 10	7,159	1,283	1.84%
District 4	4,594	1,222	1.17%	District 11	5,542	1,308	1.33%
District 5	5,017	879	1.42%	District 12	5,974	1,340	1.83%
District 6	6,271	1,350	1.60%	District 13	6,864	1,504	2.13%
District 7	5,597	1,067	1.42%				

Source: Congressional Research Service, **Current Federal Civilian Employment by State and Congressional District**, Updated Dec 20, 2024 <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47716>

In that perspective, we are asking our Senators and Representatives to do everything possible to stop this attack on the Federal government's ability to serve the public at the expense of Federal employees who work in our State for America with dedication, day in and day out. Also, that any efficiency analysis consider second and third order effects of proposed actions before execution.

Thank you for your support

Joe DeSira
 NARFE Michigan
 Federation President