

May 12, 2021

M21-009

To: SPEEA Council Members

From: Joel Funfar (CR, P2)

Subject: **PRE-SUBMITTED NEW BUSINESS:** Recommendation of Consideration.

Background

Every three years, IFPTE re-elects its officers.

IFPTE President Paul Shearon has announced his retirement following the IFPTE Convention.

The IFPTE Constitution section 8 describes the duties of the President and Section 9 the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer.

Matt Biggs has been the Secretary-Treasurer for the past 3 years and fully understands the duties of the President. Before assuming the Secretary-Treasurer's post, Matt Biggs had been the Legislative Director from 2001 – 2018, has worked closely and effectively with SPEEA on countless issues impacting SPEEA members for nearly two decades, has established and maintains productive working relationships with national leaders and staff at the AFL-CIO & AFL-CIO affiliated and non-affiliated unions, and has been a trade unionist for nearly 30 years. Matt Biggs would be a perfect choice to become IFPTE's next international president.

Gay Henson has been the Eastern Federal Area VP since 2012. And President (since 2005) of her Union, IFPTE Local 1937 at Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Gay Henson has been one of the most effective IFPTE Local leaders since Local 1937/EA joined IFPTE in 2004. As President of her local, she established and maintained a strong legislative advocacy program, has fought on behalf of her members against TVA's efforts to gut the worker pension program, and, most recently, won a long fought battle against TVA's intention to offshore over 200 Local 1937 represented IT jobs. In her role as Eastern Federal Area Vice President, Gay Henson has established great working relationships across the IFPTE family of Locals, including SPEEA, and will be a great friend and fighter for SPEEA as IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer.

Matt Biggs and Gay Henson are running as a ticket for President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively, of IFPTE at the IFPTE convention in August 2021. We recommend these two candidates to the SPEEA Council for consideration. Both of these people have been strong advocates for SPEEA and our issues.

Motion

It is moved that: **THE SPEEA COUNCIL ENDORSES MATT BIGGS AND GAY HENSON FOR IFPTE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-TREASURER.**