



FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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FLEOA President responds to statements by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) issued the following statement in response to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross's confusion as to why federal workers affected by the government shutdown were going to food banks when they could simply take out a loan.

FLEOA President Nathan Catura said, **"I'm not sure what the Commerce Secretary has been doing but clearly the shutdown isn't impacting him or his personal finances."** Catura continued, **"If he's been paying attention he would see that the NOAA, Export Enforcement, Coast Guard, DHS, DOJ and other federal law enforcement officers have been working with no pay for over a month now, are already in debt, and don't need to take on additional debt due to the governments incompetence at ending the shutdown."**

"The Commerce Secretary enlightened all of us as to why government shutdowns continue- it is because when politicians aren't affected by their terrible decisions, they adopt the 'let them eat cake' attitude," said Catura.

"Instead of the Commerce Secretary advocating for federal law enforcement to go deeper in debt, perhaps he could work to fix the shutdown and get federal law enforcement officers back to work with pay," said Catura.

Catura concluded, **"Enough is enough. Our members are being forced to go to food banks, go to the brink of bankruptcy, and exhaust savings due to the government's incompetence. Statements from Commerce Secretary Ross show that he is out of touch with the effects of the shutdown on federal**

employees. As a cabinet level official, the Commerce Secretary should be advocating for federal employees, not advocating for the banks."

FLEOA is the nation's largest non-partisan, not-for-profit professional association representing more than 27,000 federal law enforcement officers and agents across 65 federal agencies.

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