**SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

*Below is a sample Letter to the Editor regarding potential cuts to federal employee pensions and other benefits that could be considered by the Budget Conference Committee. Simply fill out the sections in red as instructed and then send it to your local newspaper.*

*Instructions on submitting letters to the 100 largest newspapers in the country can be found here:* [*http://www.ccmc.org/node/16179*](http://www.ccmc.org/node/16179)*. If your newspaper isn’t listed, visit the newspaper’s website or give them a call to find out how to submit a letter.*

As Congress debates a longer term budget deal, I hope members will remember the many ways federal employees already have contributed to reducing the nation’s deficit (INSERT headline and date of recent newspaper article related to the budget debates). Federal employees haven’t had a pay raise in three straight years, while new federal workers must pay nearly four times more toward their retirement. Those two concessions alone have cost us $105 billion – and that doesn’t include the billions in lost wages from sequestration-related furloughs this summer. Most people agree that sequestration needs to end, but it shouldn’t be replaced with additional cuts targeting federal employees. Some lawmakers want to force us to pay even more for our pensions and to cut Social Security benefits and federal pensions by switching to a chained CPI formula for measuring inflation. These proposals should be rejected outright. Instead, Congress should close tax loopholes for corporations that ship jobs overseas. That’s a deficit reduction plan that all workers will endorse.

INSERT Your Name and other requested information