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## **MSPB ANNOUNCES PETITION FOR REVIEW MEDIATION APPEALS PROGRAM**

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB or Board) Mediation Appeals Program (MAP) has provided the services of MSPB's trained and certified mediators as an alternative to the formal initial appeal process for more than 20 years. Building on the success of that alternative dispute resolution (ADR) program, and following a successful pilot program, MSPB has launched a new permanent ADR program that provides mediation services for MSPB cases with a pending petition for review (PFR) before the Board. This new ADR program is called PFR MAP.

PFR MAP is free, easy, and confidential. All parties must agree to its use and submit a completed [Agreement to Mediate Form](#) before the case is accepted to PFR MAP, and all must agree on a resolution before any settlement is concluded. Unlike the traditional PFR process, the parties control the result of the case under the skilled guidance of a mediator, who will play no role in deciding the PFR if the parties do not reach a settlement.

MSPB Chairman Cathy Harris stated, "Settlement is always an option at the MSPB. With the passage of time, circumstances may have changed that make settlement more likely. We encourage parties to always consider settlement no matter the stage of the case, as it allows for both sides to control the outcome."

Parties seeking mediation of a pending PFR should submit a completed [Agreement to Mediate Form](#) to PFR MAP at [regionaloperations@MSPB.gov](mailto:regionaloperations@MSPB.gov). Parties may also contact the PFR MAP Coordinator at that same email address for more information about the program.

Additional information about MSPB's Mediation Appeals Program is available at <https://www.mspb.gov/appeals/mediationappeals.htm>.

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is an independent, quasi-judicial agency whose mission is to protect the Merit System Principles and promote an effective Federal workforce free of Prohibited Personnel Practices.

**U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, 1615 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20419**