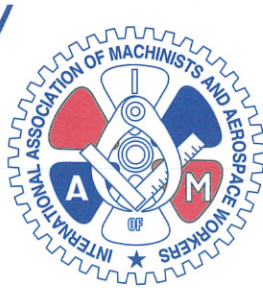


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

July 14, 2015

Dear Representative,

I write to urge your support for the Keep Our Pension Promises Act, HR 2844, sponsored by Representative Marcy Kaptur. This important legislation restores a fundamental tenet of retirement security for millions of Americans in multiemployer pension plans, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act's (ERISA) anti-cutback rule. The anti-cutback rule is derived from a fundamental understanding that, since the overwhelming majority of retirees do not have the means to increase their income either because of health issues or age discrimination, allowing cuts in promised benefits is a ticket to poverty and dependence on government assistance. There can be no real retirement security if your pension can be cut after your retire.

Unfortunately, the anti-cutback rule was severely weakened when the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act was attached to the FY 2015 Omnibus spending bill that was passed by a lame duck Congress in the final days of 2014. Worse yet, this legislation, affecting millions of Americans, was not subject to regular order. Retirees and their advocates were unable to review the legislation which was not subject to a hearing, committee markup, or amendment.

While most pension plans are properly funded, some have funding challenges because of deregulation, bad trade policies, and the financial mistakes of Wall Street. Retirees should not be made to unjustly suffer because of issues that they had no involvement in.

HR 2844 also provides much needed funding to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) by closing tax loopholes for the wealthy and allocating those funds to the PBGC.

Yesterday was the White House Conference on Aging, a once in a decade event that focuses on the pressing needs of America's seniors. We can think of no better way of honoring the hard work and sacrifice of older Americans, who spent a lifetime building and protecting our nation, than by ensuring that their pensions will be there when they retire. The Keeping Our Pension Promises Act restores ERISA's anti-cutback rule and preserves America's promise to our seniors. To cosponsor this vital legislation please contact Jenny Perrino in Representative Kaptur's office at 5-4146, or at jenny.perrino@mail.house.gov.

If you have any questions, please call Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President