



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
15937 NE Airport Way
Portland, OR 97230

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On November 28th, over 300 IBEW Business Managers and pension trustees converged on Washington, D.C. to speak with House Representatives and Senators. This was a coordinated effort led by the International Office to convince these elected officials to vote against any proposed legislation that would tax participants in multi-employer defined benefit pension plans like our Edison and NEBF. The reason given for this proposed taxation is to rescue other defined benefit plans that are projected to fail in the next few years. In reality it is really just a partisan attack on Unions and has the very real possibility of harming the defined benefit plans that are in good health.

Why did this turn into a sudden emergency? Several Building Trades International Unions, including the IBEW, have been working for years towards a solution to shore up the defined benefit pensions that are in critical status. Our legislative solution, referred to as the Butch Lewis Act, would provide low-interest 30-year loans to the pensions in need.

The Butch Lewis Act was essentially hijacked by Senator Orrin Hatch and Representative Paul Ryan, and is now filled with taxes and fees directed at workers and retirees. This is why the International Office made the emergency request for Business Managers across the nation to fly out to D.C. I am happy to report that we have stopped the current attempt to force this legislation through.

Brothers and Sisters we all need to speak up. I spoke with Senators Jeff Merkley (OR) and Patty Murray (WA), Congressmen Peter DeFazio, Kurt Schrader, Greg Walden, Earl Blumenauer (OR) and Dan Newhouse (WA) and Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici (OR) and although I was given assurances that they will not support legislation that will hurt the retirements that you and all your Sisters and Brothers have worked for, I am asking for your support in reminding them of that promise. My fear is that those working against us will try to attach at least some small part of what was proposed into a good bill that everyone would want to support.

Below is the website address to help you find the contact information for your federal elected officials – please send them an email or make a call and let them know that hard-working people are paying attention, and you ask that they do not support any pension reform that would tax participants. We do need a solution to the current crisis facing certain defined benefit plans, but Senator Hatch's plan is not the way to go.

Please visit the following site to find your Representative:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

The way I have been explaining it to Federal Legislators is that GM makes cars and pickups like Ford so Ford should pay money to bail out GM. Similarly our pensions are structured the same but there is nothing that connects the Edison or NEBF to the Central States Teamsters Defined Benefit.

Fraternally,


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Financial Secretary

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