

May 13, 2020

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

The undersigned organizations and companies that sponsor and service defined benefit plans that cover millions of workers and retirees across the country thank you for your work to help plan sponsors and participants in passing the "*Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.*" Specifically, we appreciate the delay of minimum contributions until 2021 and the temporary relaxation of benefit restriction status. These provisions are an appreciated first step. However, more action is needed.

Employers that sponsor single-employer defined benefit plans are experiencing a particularly unexpected financial strain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The recent drop in interest rates combined with declining asset values because of market conditions created an unanticipated increase in pension contributions. Many employers are experiencing a downturn in normal business operations and cash flows. As employers emerge from this economic crisis, many will need money in the near term to re-open closed businesses, bring back furloughed workers, and provide immediate benefits such as health care and paid leave.

Employers are committed to their defined benefit plans. However, these are long-term obligations that can be funded over time. As such, we urge Congress to move forward on relief that addresses both short-term and long-term needs of plan sponsors of single-employer defined benefit plans so that they can provide for their employees as they return to work and in the future. This help can be provided without disruption to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). The PBGC's single employer program is robust with a sizeable surplus and strengthening employers' ability to remain in that program further supports the PBGC.

Thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to working with you and your staff to advance legislation that would assist all employers, workers, and retirees who have a single-employer defined benefit plan. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the listed signatories with questions or to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Ace Glass Incorporated  
Aerospace Industries Association  
Alight Solutions LLC  
American Airlines  
American Benefits Council  
American Chemistry Council  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Institute of Chemical Engineers

Aon plc  
Arkema Inc.  
Associated Benefits Corporation  
Bacardi U.S.A., Inc.  
BAE Systems  
Ball Corporation  
BJC HealthCare  
Bose Corporation  
Buck  
The Business Council  
CenturyLink  
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.  
Committee on Investments of Employee Benefit Assets  
CONMED Corporation  
Cox Enterprises, Inc.  
Crayola  
CSAA Insurance Group  
Cummins Inc.  
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.  
Deere & Company  
Dominion Energy, Inc.  
Dow Inc.  
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States  
DTE Energy  
ECR International, Inc.  
Edison Electric Institute  
Eli Lilly and Company  
Entergy Corporation  
The ERISA Industry Committee  
Ernst & Young, LLP  
Exelon Corporation  
FCA US LLC  
Financial Executive International  
Finch Paper LLC  
FirstEnergy  
General Dynamics Corporation  
Guard Publishing Company  
Guthrie Cortland Medical Center  
Hallmark Cards Inc.  
Henniges Automotive  
John Wood Group PLC  
Kinder Morgan, Inc.  
King Industries, Inc.  
Kohler Co.  
Koppers Inc.  
The Kroger Co.

Lifespire, Inc.  
Lockheed Martin Corporation  
Lockton Retirement Services  
Los Angeles Philharmonic Association  
Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.  
Maxar Technologies Inc.  
Mercer  
Metropolitan Opera Association, Inc.  
Michigan Education Association  
Nathan Littaver Hospital and Nursing Home  
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Mining Association  
Nationwide  
Navistar, Inc  
The New Jewish Home  
Pactiv LLC  
Paul Hastings LLP  
Pitcairn Company  
Premier Health  
Principal Financial Group  
PSEG  
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP  
Raytheon Technologies  
Red Wing Shoe Company  
Resolute Forest Products  
Salt River Project  
Samaritan Health Services  
Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative  
Spring Consulting Group, LLC, an Alera Group Company  
Tamarack Management, Inc.  
Timber Operators Council Retirement Plan and Trust  
Travelport  
Unisys  
University Hospitals Health System Pension Plan  
Unum  
UPMC  
UPS  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Volvo Group North America  
WEA Staff Retirement Plan  
Willis Towers Watson