



# INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES, AFL-CIO

December 9, 2014

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of current and future pensioners of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT), I urge your support of vital and bi-partisan reform to the multi-employer pension system that has been proposed by the Education and Workforce Committee and is included in the 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act. Your support will provide the joint labor management pension boards the tools necessary to strengthen those plans that face serious funding deficiencies.

As you may know, the IUPAT endorsed the joint labor and business proposal known as ***Solutions Not Bailouts*** ([www.solutionsnotbailouts.com](http://www.solutionsnotbailouts.com)) because it was a private sector solution to strengthen the multi-employer pension system. Today, we urge you to support the bi-partisan legislation developed by the Education and Workforce Committee that follows this model because it will provide hard-earned security for our members.

The bi-partisan proposal developed by the Education and Workforce Committee will modify the expiring Pension Protection Act (PPA) and give plan trustees the tools they need to strengthen their plans. This proposal helps troubled plans avoid insolvency, puts the plans recovering from the economic downturn on firmer ground, and helps those plans, and retirees that are most in trouble, avoid losing everything. All plan decisions will require buy-in from both labor and management, and no decisions can be made without both sides agreeing that they are in the best interest of plan participants.

That said we are concerned with the PBGC premium increase contained in the final legislative language. This premium increase will come into effect when the construction industry is just getting back to work after the recession creating yet another hurdle that our plans will have to navigate. I would urge lawmakers to take a serious look at PBGC structure and funding next year.

We strongly urge you to support the inclusion of the language strengthening the multi-employer pension system included in the 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Rigmaiden  
General President

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