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The NRLN advocates the rights of more than 2 million American retirees from...

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December 9, 2015

The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman
Finance Committee
United States Senate
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4402

Dear Chairman Hatch:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I urge you to bring to a vote in the Senate Finance Committee S. 1631, the Keep Our Pension Promises Act.

The Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 that permits trustees of severely underfunded multiemployer pension plans to cut the earned pension benefits of current retirees changed over 40 years of ERISA law. The change to ERISA is a big shift that many retiree and consumer groups as well as several lawmakers fear could set a precedent for other troubled retirement programs, including single-employer pension plans. Since 1974, the federal law governing the nation's private-sector pensions has prohibited cuts to the benefits of individuals who have already retired — a precedent that is now endangered.

The NRLN supports the passage of S. 1631 to restore ERISA's original commitment so that America's retirees do not need to doubt their retirement income security.

If you or your staff have questions about why passage of S. 1631 is important to NRLN members, please contact me or Marta Bascom, the NRLN's Executive Director in Washington, DC at 703-863-9611 or executivedirector@nrln.org.

The NRLN's full Legislative Agenda and detailed whitepapers can be found at www.nrln.org. Your consideration on these issues would also be appreciated.

Sincerely,

President, National Retiree Legislative Network
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