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

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NASD / NEA / Net Co. / Nevada Bell / Niagara Mohawk Power /  
NJEA / NJ Public Employee / Nokia / North Memorial Medical  
Center / NSTAR / Northwest Airlines / Northwestern Bell / NYNEX  
/ NY Teachers / Ohio Bell / OK Teachers / Oregon PERS / OSRAM  
Sylvania / PacBell / PBGC / PECO Energy / Pension Actuary / Pfizer  
/ Phila Electric Co. / Polaroid / Port Authority of NY & NJ /  
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Weyerhaeuser / Xerox/

August 13, 2019

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-3703

Dear Senator Wyden:

On behalf of the more than 2 million retirees and future retirees represented by the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), I am requesting that you support calling for a vote in the Committee on Finance on **S. 2254, Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pension Act.** (The bill is also referred to as the Butch Lewis Act.)

Through no fault of their own 1.3 million retirees in 130 multiemployer pension plans receiving (or who were receiving) monthly pension checks and workers with future vested pension rights are facing the devastating predicament of their pensions having been suspended, severely reduced or on the verge of being suspended. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), the intended safety net for pensions, will likely run out of money to support multiemployer pensions in 2025.

The NRLN supports the **Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pension Act** because it would create a new agency within the Department of the Treasury authorized to issue bonds in order to finance loans to “critical and declining” status multiemployer pension plans, plans that have suspended benefits, and some recently insolvent plans currently receiving financial assistance from the PBGC.

We believe the proposed legislation is not a bailout because it would require paying back the loans. The federal government is backstopping the risk. It is important that **S. 2254** does not allow for any cuts to the benefits retirees and workers have earned through their years of employment.

**The Butch Lewis Act** was passed in the House on July 24 with a vote of 264 to 169. We are hopeful that your committee will advance the bill and Senators will vote to approve it.

If you would like to know more about why the NRLN supports **S. 2254**, please ask a member of your staff to contact me or Alyson Parker, the NRLN’s Executive Director in Washington, DC at 813-545-6792 or [executivedirector@nrln.org](mailto:executivedirector@nrln.org).

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President,  
National Retiree Legislative Network  
Phone: 972-722-5928 Email: [president@nrln.org](mailto:president@nrln.org)