



ACT NOW: Tell Congress to Protect Your Pension Benefits in the Upcoming COVID-19 Bill

Right now, Republicans and Democrats in Congress are negotiating the contents of the next COVID-19 relief bill, which is currently expected to pass by early August. One of the issues up for negotiation is whether to include assistance for struggling multiemployer pension plans, and, if so, what that assistance package should contain.

Now is the time to tell your Members of Congress to include a legislative solution that would prevent the AFM-EPF from becoming insolvent and to avoid any measures that would be harmful to our Plan and our participants and beneficiaries.

Here's what you can do:

1. [Click here](#) for more information and suggestions about what to say to your Members of Congress.
2. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at **202-224-3121** and follow the prompts to reach your Members' offices. You will either reach a staff member or be asked to leave a voicemail.
3. [Click here](#) to email your Members of Congress.

If legislation passes that allows us to withdraw our application to reduce benefits under the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (MPRA), then the Trustees plan to do that.

Congressional negotiators are working to find a bipartisan compromise, using the competing proposals by Democratic and Republican Members as a starting point. Both proposals would allow struggling multiemployer pension plans – including the AFM-EPF – to "partition" in order to remain solvent in the future, which means that they would transfer a portion of participants' benefit liabilities to a new, second plan that would be administered by the Trustees, but funded by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

The Trustees support the current Democratic proposal, called the Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act. The Trustees do not support the current Republican proposal because it contains serious flaws that would negatively affect our participants, our Plan and the multiemployer system as a whole. [You can read about those flaws in a past issue of *Pension Fund Notes*](#). Earlier legislative proposals that were based on government loans (such as the Butch Lewis Act) are no longer being considered by either party in Congress.

If Congress passes a legislative solution that helps the AFM-EPF and other multiemployer pension plans, its content will likely fall somewhere between the two proposals currently under consideration. Please [act now](#) to push for the best possible outcome for our Plan and our participants. We will update you with any new developments in the coming weeks.

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