



# *Pension Fund Notes*

Newsletter of the American Federation of Musicians and  
Employers' Pension Fund

## **Deadline Approaching: Send Comments to Joint Select Committee by September 30**

[In April, we informed you](#) that the Joint Select Committee on the Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans had invited participants, businesses and other stakeholders to **submit public comment to the Committee at [JSCSMPP@finance.senate.gov](mailto:JSCSMPP@finance.senate.gov) by Sunday, September 30. That deadline is now upon us.**

We encourage all participants to share their personal stories with the Joint Select Committee before this deadline by emailing the Committee directly at [JSCSMPP@finance.senate.gov](mailto:JSCSMPP@finance.senate.gov) or by using [this email tool set up by the AFM-EPF](#). You can find messaging suggestions [on the AFM-EPF website](#).

[Earlier this month, we shared information about important changes to the Butch Lewis Act](#) proposed by Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Congressman Richard Neal (D-MA). The Butch Lewis Act, in its original form, would have established a low-interest government loan program to help **all** struggling multiemployer pension funds - now and in the future. However, these recent proposed changes would restrict the AFM-EPF and many other multiemployer pension funds from accessing the loan program. Instead, the amended Act would limit its help to a small group of multiemployer funds already in the very worst financial shape.

We must forcefully communicate to members of the Congressional Joint Select Committee that it's imperative they produce a legislative solution that protects the AFM-EPF and all other similarly affected multiemployer funds, and that safeguards your pension benefits.

Even after September 30, it is still important to make your voice heard. The window for public comments may close after Sunday, but [the tools on the AFM-EPF website](#) make it easy to contact your own Members of Congress and the offices of each individual Joint Select Committee member. The Joint Select Committee still has until November 30 to produce a bipartisan solution to the multiemployer pension crisis.

Emails and phone calls will put pressure on our elected officials, but nothing is more effective than face-to-face meetings. Members of Congress up for election on November 6 are particularly likely to spend time at home in October for town hall meetings and campaign events. These are great opportunities to tell your Members of Congress directly to protect the AFM-EPF and your pension benefits. Public events are often listed on a Member's government website or campaign website.

### **Senate Finance Committee Considers Nominee for PBGC Director**

On Thursday, September 27, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing to consider the nomination of Gordon Hartogensis to serve as director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC).

In their questioning, the Senators emphasized the importance of solving the multiemployer pension crisis. Hartogensis called the issue "the largest crisis that people don't know about," and he said that the sooner Congress acts, the less expensive and painful the solution will be.

[Click here](#) to watch the full video of the hearing.

[view this email in your browser](#)

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