



President
Robert Roach, Jr.

Secretary-Treasurer
Joseph Peters, Jr.

May 6, 2019

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Neal:

I would like to join AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka in thanking you for your continued leadership on the Ways and Means Committee on behalf of retirees and working families. As you know, the looming multi-employer pension crisis threatens the well-being of millions of retired Americans, their families and their communities. We must find a solution so this looming threat does not cripple our nation's economy, and so that our nation's workers, including miners, can retire with dignity after a lifetime of hard work.

That is why we need your committee to pass and send to the full House H.R. 935, the Miners Pension Protection Act. I have over 50 years of experience in dealing with pensions, including education, negotiation, termination, and bankruptcy. I know this legislation will go a long way in addressing UMWA pension issues.

The Alliance for Retired Americans, a national organization that advocates for the rights and well-being of over 4.4 million retirees and their families, fully supports efforts to address the entire multi-employer pension crisis in a way that does not penalize union members, retirees and their surviving spouses. We are fully engaged in this effort and want to work with you to meet that goal. Passage of legislation to preserve retired miners' pensions is an important step towards achieving a successful outcome for miners and their widows.

As you know, we need immediate action to preserve the UMWA 1974 Pension Plan. Through no fault of the miners and pension participants, who risked their lives for years in providing a key source of our nation's energy supply, the 1974 Plan has been devastated by a series of coal company bankruptcies and is projected to go insolvent in 2022.

The federal government has a long history of taking action to preserve retirement benefits for coal miners. H.R. 935 continues that commitment by drawing on a funding source that is already in place. The policy decisions needed to develop a structure to



help retired coal miners have already been made. Now we need Congress to provide adequate funding so your committee can complete the task at hand.

Preserving miners' pensions has strong bipartisan support in the House and the Senate. We must pass legislation this year -- time is of the essence. I urge you to take up H.R. 935 in the House Ways and Means Committee as soon as possible and send it to the full House for final passage.

Sincerely,



Robert Roach, Jr.

cc: Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House
Hon. Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader
Hon. James Clyburn, House Majority Whip
Hon. Hakeem Jeffries, Democratic Caucus Chairman

