

27 April 2006

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: **Pension Protection Act (HR 2380) and the Pension Security and Transparency Act (S 1783)**

Dear Senator DeWine:

On behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America, I am writing to encourage you and your colleagues to move expeditiously to complete work on a conference agreement that will strengthen three major structural components of the nation's voluntary private retirement savings system.

Conferees should adopt defined benefit funding rules that will provide the flexibility and predictability that plan sponsors need to make required contributions to traditional workplace plans and deliver undiminished benefits to retirees and their dependents. Plan participants should also be able to obtain more timely and complete information about changes in plan funding status than they can under current law...

Conferees should provide unambiguous assurances that cash balance and other hybrid plan designs are not age discriminatory as long as plan sponsors contribute the same percentage of compensation (or an increasing percentage based on age) on behalf of all plan participants. To ensure equity in cash balance plan conversions, Senate-passed provisions that will eliminate "wear-away" and ensure appropriate transitional relief for older, longer-service workers should also be accepted.

The conference agreement should also promote prudent investments in defined contribution plans and other tax-favored retirement savings arrangements. Acceptance of Senate-passed automatic enrollment, investment education and account diversification features will help to accomplish this objective. House-passed provisions to extend and make permanent the expanded retirement savings contributions limits, portability improvement features and low-income savers credit that were enacted as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 are especially important in this regard.

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Thank you for considering our views on these matters.

Sincerely,



Ralph W. Wyndrum, Jr., Eng.Sc.D.
President, IEEE-USA

(Sample letter sent to Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Conferees)