



Southwest Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters

Fringe Benefit Funds

Health Fund: P.O. Box 1257, Troy, MI 48099

Pension Fund: 33 Fitch Blvd., Austintown, OH, 44515

Phone: 330-779-8862

June 2018

Dear Participant,

As you are by now aware, our Pension Plan is in Critical and Declining status. If we do nothing, our Pension Plan is projected to run out of money by 2036—meaning that all pension payments will stop in less than 19 years.

However, we are not doing nothing. We have developed a **Pension Recovery Plan** as provided under the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act (MPRA).

What is the Attached Notice of Application for Approval of a Proposed Reduction of Benefits?

The Pension Plan is applying to the United States Treasury Department for MPRA relief. MPRA gives Trustees of plans like ours the ability—within certain limits—to avoid insolvency and save your pensions by reducing benefits of active members, retirees already collecting their pensions and terminated vested participants. Our MPRA relief plan is called the Pension Recovery Plan.

We submitted our Pension Recovery Plan to the Treasury Department on June 29, 2018. By law, we are required to send the attached notice to you. Much of the notice is legally required text that we could not change. We have put together this letter as well as the resources listed in the “Want More Information?” section to help you make sense of the attached notice and the Pension Recovery Plan in general.

The notice is divided into six main sections:

1. Why is the Board of Trustees proposing to reduce benefits?
2. What will happen if the Pension Plan runs out of money?
3. How did the Board of Trustees decide whose benefits to reduce and by how much?
4. What are the proposed reductions in benefits?
5. What comes next?
6. An individualized estimate* that explains how your pension will be impacted by the Pension Recovery Plan.

* If you are already collecting a pension, please remember that the amount shown in the individualized notice that represents your current benefit amount is before taxes and before any other deductions, so it is likely different from the amount on your monthly pension check.

What’s Next?

Now that our Pension Recovery Plan has been submitted to the Treasury Department, you have the opportunity to review it, comment on it and, upon approval of the Treasury Department, vote

on whether to ratify it or not. We will continue to keep you informed throughout the Pension Recovery Plan process.

Want More Information?

We are devoting resources to helping you understand this process.

- **Pension Recovery Plan Call Center:** (330) 779-8862 (Select Option 3 from the directory when you call)
- **Pension Recovery Plan Website:** www.SORCCPensionRecovery.org. We have information about the Pension Recovery Plan, including FAQs, graphics and videos, as well as downloadable copies of documents and mailings.

In Conclusion

Our Pension Plan is projected to run out of money by 2036—unless we act now. That is why we are taking these dramatic steps. And our Pension Recovery Plan is far better than the alternatives.

Reducing pensions for current retirees and beneficiaries is not something we ever thought we'd have to do. The only reason we're even considering these changes is to prevent the Pension Plan from becoming insolvent, and your pension payments from being cut even more—or disappearing altogether. If the Pension Recovery Plan works as we expect it to, the result will be a Pension Plan you can count on for many years to come.

We encourage you to carefully review the notice and all of the other materials we have prepared. We hope that they will help you understand the seriousness of our situation and why we need your support for the Pension Recovery Plan.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees