

Resolution N°. 3

August 1, 2018

Subject: *Resolution in support of legislation to help Multi-Employer Pension Funds*

Butch Lewis Act Resolution

Whereas, Beginning in the early 2000s, economic conditions in the United States contributed to a wide-scale drop in the assets of multi-employer pension funds, including the American Federation of Musicians and Employers' Pension Fund ("AFM-EPF"); and

Whereas, Many member orchestras of the Regional Orchestra Players' Association ("ROPA") participate in the AFM-EPF; and

Whereas, Many musicians in ROPA orchestras rely on the AFM-EPF's solvency for retirement; and

Whereas, Congress enacted the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act ("MPRA")¹ in 2014 to attempt to provide relief to pension funds that were in trouble; and

Whereas, The MPRA may not be sufficient to protect AFM-EPF members' pensions; and

Whereas, The American Federation of Musicians ("AFM") has been actively involved in working with Congress to address this problem; and

Whereas, In February 2018, Congress established a bipartisan Joint Select Committee on the Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans ("Joint Committee")

¹ More information on MPRA can be found at https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/multiemployer_report_-_chamber_-final.pdf

in order to draft new legislation that addresses the potential insolvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans across the country; and

Whereas, One proposed legislative solution is the Butch Lewis Act,² which would provide government loans to multi-employer pension funds; and

Whereas, The Joint Committee needs to hear from constituents about the urgency of passing new legislation like the Butch Lewis Act; and

Whereas, On July 12, 2018, AFM President Ray Hair stated in an email to AFM members, “The Butch Lewis Act is the only plan that will provide a path to financial health for troubled pension plans”; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Regional Orchestra Players’ Association (“ROPA”) encourages its members to contact their members of Congress³ and express their support for new Multiemployer Pension Fund legislation like the Butch Lewis Act; and, be it further

Resolved, That ROPA supports the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada (“AFM”) in its efforts to lobby for the Butch Lewis Act or any other similar legislation that protects the AFM-EPF and its beneficiaries.

Submitted by: The ROPA Executive Board

² S. 2147, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2147/text?format=txt>

³ instructions at <https://www.afm-epf.org/Participants/ContactCongress.aspx>