



February 11, 2021

Re: Letter In Support of the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021 (EPPRA)

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The live entertainment industry has been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eleven months ago, 13,000 musicians, actors, stagehands and other workers on Broadway, along with many thousands of workers across the United States, saw their livelihoods disappear overnight with no clear view on when they will be able to return to work. Broadway shows have gone dark and ticket sales have collapsed to zero. As a consequence, the benefit plans to which League members contribute have suffered a totally unforeseen and unplanned loss of contribution income from which some plans will struggle to recover.

In particular, the AFM-EPF is a fund currently in “critical and declining status” and has submitted an application for benefit reductions as permitted under the Multiemployer Pension Relief Act (MPRA). Despite the Fund taking strong remedial actions over the past decade, musicians will see a 30% reduction in their pensions upon approval of the Fund’s MPRA application. The funding relief provided by the proposed EPPRA legislation would likely forestall the need to seek those benefit reductions, ensuring that retirees will continue to enjoy their full pension benefits during these uncertain times.

Together, the League and Local 802 urge Congress to pass the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021.

Thank you for your courtesy and leadership during these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Charlotte St. Martin
President
The Broadway League



Adam Krauthamer
President, Local 802, AFM



Christopher Brockmeyer
Director of Employee Benefit Funds
The Broadway League

The Broadway League (the League) is the trade association for the national commercial theatre industry. We represent more than 700 members nationwide; including employers who contribute to 11 Taft Hartley defined benefit pension plans with assets in excess of \$6 billion covering more than 120,000 workers. The Associated Musicians of Greater New York, Local 802 AFM (Local 802) is the largest local union of professional musicians in the world, comprising over 7,500 members, including musicians employed in Broadway theatrical productions. The League and Local 802 relationship represents the single largest collective bargaining group contributing to the national American Federation of Musicians and Employers' Pension Fund (AFM-EPF). We are writing to express our support for the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act of 2021 ("EPPRA").