

The Honorable Josh Hawley
US Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hawley,

I want to request that you fully support a secure retirement for all and that our well managed defined benefit pension plan will accomplish this goal.

The defined benefit plans are very beneficial to our communities. The Vernon County pension, MoLagers, is a financially strong and a respected leader among public pension plans nationally. The recipient of a defined benefit pension payment knows what he or she is receiving with each and every distribution regardless of the current economic climate. This is a very positive force in supporting our local businesses. The total economic impact state wide in 2016 was \$244 million and the impact in the SW region, which includes your district, was in excess of \$64 million. The situation changes when a retiree must depend on a retirement funded with 401 or other types of defined contribution retirement funding which is tied to current market conditions. During a prolonged market downturn, spending would likely be drastically reduced by those who see the value of their holding decreasing and facing an unknown certainty for the future.

Thank you for taking time to hear me. I ask you please listen to the constituents of you district when introducing or supporting legislation and making decisions on issues important to them.

Very truly,