GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

June 1, 2019

WALDEN APPOINTED INTERIM OFCC DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, Ohio Office of Budget and Management Director Kimberly Murnieks announced on May 31 the appointment of Jon C. Walden as Interim Executive Director of the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (Commission), effective June 1, 2019. Walden is currently the Chief Legal Counsel and Ethics Officer for the Commission.

At its May 23, 2019 meeting, Director Murnieks announced the resignation of Executive Director David Williamson as part of his retirement from state service. Williamson was thanked for his over twenty years of state service and his commitment to the Commission for the past three and a half years.

Director Murnieks will lead the process of filling the Executive Director position over the coming weeks. More information about the process will be available on the Commission’s website.

TAKE ACTION! ENCOURAGE SENS BROWN & PORTMAN TO SUPPORT COMPOSITE PLANS AND HELP RESOLVE MULTI-EMPLOYER PENSION CRISIS

The nation’s multiemployer pension plan system is facing a crisis. Over 100 plans and a million participants’ retirement security are in jeopardy. Ohio’s senators will be key players in the discussion; tell them to support the authorization of composite plans!

Various measures have been proposed to address the severe underfunding of these plans as well as the federal agency serving as their financial backstop - the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. However, one pension reform policy that should be enacted immediately is the authorization of composite plans.

A composite plan is a hybrid between a traditional defined contribution and a defined benefit plan. Composite plan legislation would be beneficial to the construction industry because: the plan design would protect retirement savings from market downturns or other unforeseen circumstances; these plans provide lifetime income to participants and give employers certainty as to how much they must contribute to the plans; and the plan design is tried, true, and trusted. In fact, a similar, successful model is utilized in Canada.

Taking action is easy! Simply submit the pre-written message and tweet as is to your members of Congress or customize it with personal information on how this issue impacts you and your company.