



**Leo W. Gerard**  
International President

March 07, 2013

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510-4503

Dear Senator:

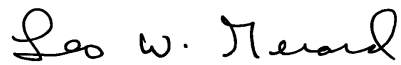
On behalf of the 1.2 million active and retired members of the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (United Steelworkers), I write to thank you for your sponsorship of the *"Keeping Our Social Security Promises Act."* The United Steelworkers is proud to stand with you and support this vital legislation to protect the integrity and longevity of our nation's retirement system. Your bill will make Social Security fully solvent for the next 75 years and do so without having to take the damaging actions some have so callously called for; such as raising the retirement age or cutting modest benefits that often are the difference between a retirement lived in dignity or one lived in fear and poverty.

This legislation takes into account critically important facts that are often deliberately disregarded in the hot political rhetoric of today. By law, Social Security cannot borrow. Rather, throughout its 75-year history, this program has been self-sustaining with each generation paying modest social insurance in return for modest benefits in their elder years. The program has enough dedicated revenues to continue to pay 100 percent of promised benefits for at least the next 26 years and your bill would ensure that scheduled benefits would continue to be paid in full and on time for the next 75 years thereafter by one simple and fair change – having those making annual wages of over \$250,000 assume their fair share.

This will impact two percent of all wage-earners, but will fairly place these wealthiest of Americans finally on an equal footing with wage-earners who earn much less, yet make payroll contributions on every cent of their earnings. With that additional revenue, Social Security will remain in long-range balance without cutting benefits to retirees, the infirm, orphans or widows who lose a wage-earner.

Social Security is a solemn promise we make as a nation. It reflects our values and is the America we treasure and want to keep. We thank you for tirelessly and forcefully standing up and fighting to protect Social Security, and we look forward to working with you to make sure America continues to reflect those values so we can all be proud to be Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo W. Gerard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

Leo W. Gerard  
International President

LWG/cdk