

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2013

Chairman Dave Camp
Committee on Ways & Means
1101 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Camp,

The Girl Scouts of the United States of America have been empowering girls with courage, confidence, and character for over 100 years. I do have a concern, though, about recent developments related to the organization's funding.

It's come to my attention that local Girl Scout councils around the country are selling off camp properties in order to fund pension liabilities. I've heard from Iowans who are concerned that generous early retirement packages for key employees are potentially diverting significant resources from serving families.

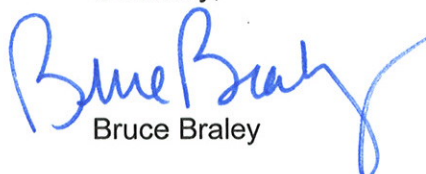
It's my understanding that after passage of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, Girl Scouts of the USA officials sought an exemption from the new law, which created a shorter timeframe to fully fund their benefit plans. In 2010, Congress passed an amendment to the Pension Protection Act that allowed the few charity plans with multiple entities such as the Girl Scouts to follow pre-PPA pension funding rules until 2017. However, later that year the Girls Scouts were forced to freeze the pension plan as investment losses suffered during the 2007-2009 recession and low discount rates caused the funding level to plummet to 63%. While I understand that some of these factors were out of their control, I'm worried that America's girl scouts are now selling cookies to fund pension plans, instead of camping.

Girl Scouts of the USA is soliciting Congress for help in resolving the Girl Scout pension funding problems. As this continues, I encourage you to make the following inquiries:

- Request information regarding the massive closure of Scout Camps across the United States
- Where are the funds from Girl Scout cookie sales going, if not to camping?
- If taxpayers are asked to bail out the organization, what specifically would this funding go towards? Pension packages, or services for girls?

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Bruce Braley