

**From:** Vince Kolber  
**To:** GASB Director <director@gasb.org>  
**Subject:** Project No. 3-25

Dear Director Bean,

There could be no better undertaking by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board than Project No. 3–25. Local, State and even the Federal governments' financial reporting regimens are woefully inadequate. All fail to properly disclose unfunded liabilities of pensions and related health insurance programs. I am the founder of a transportation equipment leasing company serving the railroad and airline industries, now in our 37th year. My clients in those industries produce financial statements which fully disclose pension obligations using FASB mandated full accrual accounting.

Two degrees in economics from Wharton and the University of Chicago have helped me grow a capital-intensive business loaded with complicated multi-year lease contracts and unique accrual-based accounting. And two attempts at running for Congress have all given me a depth of knowledge and breadth of experience which causes your 3-25 Project to scream at me for attention. The rubber meets the road when you go from private sector financial services leadership to political activism. Imagine yourself at the doorstep, as I did running for Congress in Chicago, talking to a policeman, a firefighter or a teacher trying to alert them of the inadequacy of the pension funds upon which they are relying to retire. Why are they not getting good information? Incumbent politicians avoid this conversation entirely because they do not have good information, lack the training to figure it out and are unwilling to ask groups like your board for help. Even worse for the beneficiaries of local government pensions, their union representatives are also ill-informed. Consequently, without good information such union leaders are failing as fiduciaries.

We should be concerned about taxpayers and government bond investors. But ultimately it is the beneficiaries of government promulgated pension and insurance schemes who will be personally harmed the most. If we fail to arm all constituents with the same information that investors, fiduciaries and beneficiaries in the private sector obtain every day. I serve on the Board of Truth-In-Accounting and fully endorse their proposals and comments with respect to Project No. 3-25. This quest for full-accrual accounting is a critical need and your Board will do this Country a great service the sooner you implement it. Thank you for your effort to do so.

Sincerely,

*Vince Kolber*

Chairman

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