

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 8:04 PM
To: EBSA, E-ORI - EBSA
Subject: RIN 1210-AB31

Dear Secretary Perez,

It is so sadly ironic that the United States government, with its bare, bone-dry coffers and perpetual sea of red ink, the rough residue of premises made but not kept, would tell anyone how to manage money.

Social security was funded by *us*, Mr. Perez, and now it has virtually vanished into thin air, funds frittered away, a mere rumor at this point, as pernicious politicians pushing pork just couldn't help themselves.

And **now** the US government wants to get into the IRA business.....

First, your agency, the DOL vowed to ram it through, then the SEC, the ones who should really be in charge, aware of the magnitude, as millions of investors twist in the wind, stated they'd be going much slower; FINRA weighed in, calling it unworkable, multiple times, then, in spite of the writing on the wall, the seemingly out-of-its-jurisdiction DOL vainly vows to plow on!

All this alphabet soup is making my head spin!

And FINRA just came out with cautionary words regarding that "robo-advisor" you've been touting: They're not for everyone.

Even many of those currently licensed as "fiduciaries" have said, given the new potential plus-sized playbook, and monstrous maintenance costs, that they would have no choice to exit the retirement business. For those few firms attempting to navigate the minefield and stay in, well, trial lawyers are huge political contributors; at least one demographic would win in all this.

All those IRA accounts are currently overseen by back office workers, hardly fat cats, and if your proposal goes through, many of them would lose their jobs. Now, Mr. Secretary, the word "Labor" is indeed in your job title, and given that, shouldn't you, of all people, have a vested interest in seeing more, and not less Americans in the work force?

If your proposal passes, registered representatives will be forced to inform clients they can no longer help them attempt to achieve their financial goals due to an intrusive DOL, and after all the teeth-gnashing and chord-cutting, this will be a nation of orphans, at least investment-wise.

So where will they go?

This is where the picture blurs.

The United States government has set up an IRA for those who may not work for corporations, and therefore do not have access for a 401k plan.

On the surface, this would seem like an excellent plan.

But below....

This IRA would be solely invested in US bonds, a clear example why beaurocrats should probably stay out of the investing business. Investing in bonds at the lowest interest rates in history, at yields that probably won't even keep up with inflation, is terrible investing advice. And it only gets murkier.....

According to the "myRA" website, it's "safe" and "the account value will never decrease in value." How can that be? If one invests in bonds, and interest rates rise (as is about to happen), the value of those bonds would go down if they are sold prior to maturity. Now, people come into life situations where they have to break IRA's and withdraw early, and if they did so in a bond-based investment account while rates rise, they would DEFINITELY lose money. And if they indeed can cash out early from this marvel without "losses", then logic dictates it will be taxpayers making up the difference.

In addition, quantitative easing (a program where the government creates bonds AND buys them) is over. Bond buyers allow the government to continue to spend unabated, and with any US citizens enrolling in "myRA" now filling the gap, what would happen to them if there ever was a default? Wasn't our credit rating already downgraded?

With all this US government talk of a "fiduciary standard", are they themselves holding up their end of the bargain?

President Obama, growing increasingly ravenous these days despite having what should be first class cooks on staff, initially went after 529 savings plans, which have been helping overburdened parents pay for college; rebuffed, he's now going after IRA's.

The Wall Street term for this is "hostile takeover."

Many Americans are growing wary of Uncle Sam and his increasingly wayward ways, and therefore may choose to not even participate in what could be the only retirement plan in town for fear of.... an "annexation." If the social security funds are already a mirage, could "myRA" provide the next course of sustenance for the insatiable beast?

Given all the lose ends detailed above, would you believe President Obama called *us* "snake oil salesmen?"

Mr. Perez: I've seen you on TV a few times, and unlike the long string of recent DOL head honchos who've been mostly DOA, you were impressive, but then again, you were commenting on the labor market in general, and not this. I know all this wasn't your doing; it was foisted upon you by President Obama, he's retiring, and you're on the front lines, terribly tasked with somehow making something utterly unworkable...."work."

We are the last line of defense, proud patriots, actually, and if we get red-taped out and government gets in, this looming retirement crisis will become a full-fledged tragedy, and in the end the bereft American people will turn back to their country for assistance, and the republic, already teetering, will get pushed past the brink; breadlines haven't been seen in this country in eight decades, and doesn't history tend to reasonably repeat itself?

Anonymous