

United States Senate

April 8, 2013

Ms. Catherine Weatherford
President and CEO
Insured Retirement Institute
1101 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 825
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Weatherford:

Thank you for your hard work and leadership in raising awareness about the importance of comprehensive retirement planning. Today marks the beginning of National Retirement Planning Week, which provides a great opportunity to heighten awareness of this critically important component of financial literacy and economic empowerment.

Retirement planning is one of the most vital financial decision making activities that a person must undertake as it is fundamental to a financially secure future. However, many Americans find planning for retirement to be a challenge. Indeed, only fourteen percent of American workers said they were "very confident" about their retirement savings according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute's 2012 Retirement Confidence Survey. Clearly, efforts to implement consumer protection and financial education programs that better prepare consumers are critical. By communicating the value of retirement planning, more Americans can appropriately prepare for and attain financial security for their retirement years.

I very much appreciate your work to provide Americans with essential retirement planning information and your leadership in spearheading the National Retirement Planning Coalition. Best of luck as you continue your advocacy to improve the financial future of all Americans.

Regards,



Brian Schatz
United States Senator