

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (NY-28) today sent a letter to key creditors of HMX Group, the parent company of Rochester-based manufacturing icon, Hickey Freeman. Slaughter’s letter calls for two lenders – Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase – to continue to work with HMX Group and provide access to credit to ensure the continued employment of more than 1,100 employees, 400 of which are based in Rochester.

**“Access to credit is vital to Hickey Freeman as it is to any manufacturer,” said Slaughter. “I ask these banks to continue their important work with Hickey Freeman and HMX to protect hundreds of Rochester jobs and an iconic American brand.”**

Since the 2008 financial crisis, many banks have been reluctant to extend credit to American businesses, making Slaughter's request an important pillar of support for the Rochester company. Published reports have recently outlined financial difficulties being faced by HMX Group and concern focuses on whether the company’s lenders, Wells Fargo and JP Morgan, may be reluctant to continue to extend credit to the company. Failure to secure ongoing access to credit could negatively affect HMX Group and its associated brands.

Founded in 1899, Hickey Freeman has long been an iconic American fashion brand. Hickey Freeman suits have been worn by President Barack Obama and most recently by NBC commentators and sportscasters at the London Olympics.

Congresswoman Slaughter has long supported Hickey Freeman and their local workforce. She has ensured that the company isn’t unfairly burdened with tariffs on wool they import. Three years ago, Congresswoman Slaughter stepped in to keep the Hickey Freeman manufacturing facility open when its parent company went through bankruptcy reorganization.

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