

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, June 1, 2009

**Slaughter Weighs In On Hickey-Freeman Negotiations**

**Rochester, NY** - In advance of a bankruptcy hearing this afternoon on the future of Hartmarx and its subsidiary, Hickey Freeman, Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28) has worked through the weekend to preserve jobs and keep Hickey-Freeman in Rochester.

Since efforts to move Hartmarx, a national clothier that owns Hickey-Freeman, out of bankruptcy hit a snag on Friday when the company's chief creditor, Wells Fargo, opposed an initial purchase offer from equity firm Emerisque, Slaughter has worked with Wells Fargo Foothill CEO Peter Schwab, Hartmarx CEO Homi Patel, and Emerisque officials. Slaughter's priority is to avoid liquidation and secure a buyer for Hickey-Freeman that recognizes the company's value.

Since Friday, Emerisque, working with key stakeholders, has developed a stronger purchase offer which it expects to announce later today. Union officials representing Hartmarx's employees have received assurances from Emerisque that it would keep Hartmarx operations open, including Rochester-based Hickey Freeman.

Rep Slaughter said, "I am hopeful that Hartmarx's creditors led by Wells Fargo recognize the value this offer will provide to their shareholders and work with Emerisque to make this new deal a reality. Emerisque has put forth a fair and reasonable offer that promises to save hundreds of local jobs and keep Hickey-Freeman open in Rochester."

###