

Rep. Slaughter Works to Protect Delphi Retirees' Benefits

Washington, DC – *Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules,* sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner expressing her support for Delphi salaried retirees and urging the Auto Task Force to safeguard their pension benefits.

The full text of Rep. Slaughter's letter to Secretary Geithner follows:

The Honorable Timothy Geithner

Secretary

U.S. Department of Treasury

1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Rm 3330

Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Geithner,

I am writing to express my strong support for the thousands of Delphi salaried retirees, many of whom live in or retired from Delphi facilities located in my district, and to urge the Auto Task Force to safeguard their hard earned pension benefits

While the majority of Delphi's 15,000 retirees worked for most of their careers for General Motors (GM) before Delphi was spun-off and created in 1999, the GM/Delphi restructuring plan only calls for GM to reassume Delphi's hourly retiree pension obligations. As a result, Delphi's salaried retirees' obligations would be assumed by the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation likely resulting in retirees receiving up to 70 percent less than what they were promised.

At the same time that retirees are facing this pension payment reduction, they are also being required to assume the cost of their health care and life insurance benefits which Delphi cut earlier this year. The loss of this pension income, in conjunction with the added health care expense, will not only devastate these auto retirees who counted on this money to support them in their later years, but also weaken the local Western New York economy which is reliant on retiree spending.

In light of the federal government's majority ownership position in GM, it is critical that the restructuring of GM and its supplier Delphi provides for the equitable treatment of the companies' employees and retirees by possibly shifting the salaried retiree pension obligations along with the hourly pension obligations back to GM.

On behalf of the men and women who spent their careers working to earn their pension, I respectfully request you make every effort to preserve their retirement benefits to which they are entitled. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Slaughter

Member of Congress

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