

In recognition of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter's (NY-28) federal intervention to keep the Rochester Hickey Freeman plant from being closed and liquidated last year, the CEO of Hickey Freeman's new parent company, HMX will meet with Slaughter on Friday at the Rochester plant. Slaughter will tour the plant and be joined by HMX CEO Doug Williams to announce new investments and jobs planned in Rochester.

Slaughter said that an upcoming visit by executives of Hickey Freeman's parent company HMX Group was yet another indication that the Rochester plant is thriving just months after exiting bankruptcy.

"Hickey Freeman has been a hallmark Rochester company for 100 years, and I look forward to meeting with HMX Group's CEO Doug Williams later this week so we can discuss the next 100," said Slaughter. "I know we agree that the tailors in Rochester are world-class. Hickey Freeman is making Avenue D every bit as important to men's fashion as Paris and Milan."

Over the past year, Slaughter worked tirelessly with Hickey Freeman's former parent company Hartmax, along with their creditors and the Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee Barney Frank to avoid liquidation of the company. Last June, HMX Group purchased Hickey Freeman allowing operations to remain in Rochester and saving hundreds of jobs.

In planning the meeting with Slaughter, HMX CEO Doug Williams stated, "We at the HMX Group on behalf of our 500 Hickey Freeman employees in Rochester, NY as well as the other 900 employees in New York City, Easton, PA and Chicago, IL, want to thank Congresswoman Slaughter for her unbelievable energy and support of our company," He continued, "Whether when the Hartmax was in the depths of its bankruptcy or through the leveling of the playing field against foreign competition, Congresswoman Slaughter went to bat to support our company and all these manufacturing jobs here in the United States. Without her support, none of the factories would be operating today and most likely these amazing American treasures, Hickey Freeman and Hart Schaffner Marx would not exist."

The Rochester plant currently employs 486 workers.

Two weeks ago, Slaughter authored a provision in The American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010 that will ensure that thousands of textile and apparel workers can compete on a level global playing field directly benefiting Hickey Freeman. Without this action, Hickey Freeman would have been under pressure to move its 500 jobs abroad and out of Rochester.