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Portman Joins Call for Continued Investigation into Slashing of Delphi Pensions

Bicameral, Bipartisan Letter Urges Accountability at Treasury Department

Washington, D.C. – Today, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio), former director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), joined Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Congressman Mike Turner (R-OH-10) in sending a bicameral, bipartisan letter to Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) and Congressman Darell Issa (R-CA), Chairmen of the Senate and House Oversight Committees respectively, urging them to continue their Committees' examinations of matters pertaining to the unjust termination of Delphi salaried retiree pensions.

“Until the thousands of Mahoning Valley families who did not receive the benefits they were promised receive at least the decency of an answer as to why other retirees from the same company received far better treatment, I will not stop pressing for answers regarding the unfair treatment of Delphi retirees,” Portman said. “Earlier this year, I pushed Secretary Lew to look closely into this issue and find a remedy for the hardworking Ohioans who played by the rules but were left behind during an already weak economy. While I am pleased that the Treasury Department responded to my calls to meet with the Delphi salaried retirees, many questions remain, and I am continuing to press for a swift resolution for these struggling families.”

Since Delphi's defined benefit pension plan was terminated, Delphi workers have lost as much as 70 percent of their earned pension benefits. The Auto Policy Task Force subsequently decided to “top-up” the pension benefits of certain retirees, not the 20,000 salaried retirees, including 1,500 salaried retirees in the Mahoning Valley. This has had a severe economic impact on thousands of retired Delphi salaried employees in Ohio. An economic impact study by Youngstown State University found that decreased retiree income and benefits will cost the Youngstown area about \$58 million per year in lost economic activity.

In February 2013, Portman [submitted questions for the Congressional Record](#) for the Senate Finance Committee hearing considering the nomination of Jacob Lew to serve as Treasury Secretary regarding the treatment of retired Delphi salaried workers during the General Motors bankruptcy.

In March 2013, Portman and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) [called on the Obama Administration to meet with Delphi salaried retirees](#) and to pursue efforts that would restore the retirees' pensions and benefits. In a letter to U.S. Department of Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, the senators urged Lew to review the proposal submitted by the Delphi Salaried Retirees Association (DSRA) last summer and to pursue other solutions to ensure retirees' receive the benefits they have earned that were lost through the bankruptcy of General Motors.

Portman, Wicker, and Turner are joined by Senators Dan Coats (R-IN), Thad Cochran (R-MS), and Ron Johnson (R-WI), and Congressmen Mike Kelly (R-PA), Alan Nunnelee (R-MS), Steven Palazzo (R-MS), Susan Brooks (R-IN), J. Randy Forbes (R-VA), Gregg Harper (R-MS), David Joyce (R-OH), Luke Messer (R-IN), Beto O'Rourke (D-TX), and Austin Scott (R-GA).

[Senator Portman original release](#) | [Signed copy of the letter.](#)

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