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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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The Honorable John Mica
Chairman of Subcommittee on Government Operations
Committee on Oversight
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Turner
Committee on Oversight
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515
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<http://susanwbrooks.house.gov/>

Dear Mr. Chairman and Congressman Turner:

Thank you for taking the initiative to hold this hearing today, and your continuing diligence in securing a successful resolution to this arduous issue. Like the witnesses before you today, hundreds of people from the 5th district of Indiana have been adversely affected by the bankruptcy of Delphi and the subsequent diminution of pension benefits.

This hearing is important because there remains a substantial amount of unanswered questions that need to be answered regarding the lead-up to the Delphi bankruptcy and the termination of their pension plans: Did the Treasury exert undue influence in restructuring Delphi with no pension liability, did the PBGC follow its own rules and procedures when deciding to eliminate the pension plans, are administration officials negotiating in good faith to resolve lingering problems affecting 20,000 middle-class auto workers? To this end, I am looking forward to reading testimony from this hearing and inspecting the upcoming Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP) report that will hopefully provide an in-depth and authoritative answer to all of the aforementioned questions.

Pensioners, many of whom worked side-by-side with one another, deserve equal treatment and shouldn't be severely and unfairly punished simply for not participating in a union. With some salaried retirees losing up to 70% of their pension while their union counterparts receive a "top-off" to make them whole is simply unconscionable. The Delphi Salaried Retirees Association (DSRA) has put forth a reasonable proposal to resolve this issue that would ensure that salaried-retirees are made whole while preventing any expense to the taxpayer. I would hope that Treasury and PBGC officials take a serious look at this proposal that would restore rightfully earned benefits to middle-class retirees and their families.

I commend you both for staying attuned to this issue that has affected too many Americans, and hope that the hearing today will uncover more information about the scope and depth of the problems that these pensioners must face. I hope that this will be yet another step towards achieving a fair, equitable, and mutually beneficial resolution for both the government and Delphi retirees.

Sincerely,



Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress