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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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Mr. Kenneth Feinberg
Special Master for Implementation
The Treasury Department
MPRA Office (ATTN: Deva Kyle)
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Room 1224
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Special Master Feinberg:

I write today on behalf of thousands of retirees and families in North Dakota who face potentially life-altering cuts to their pensions as proposed by the Central States Pension Plan. (Central States Plan). I urge you to visit North Dakota to hear directly from the men, women, and families who will be adversely impacted by the proposed cuts. This will provide you with an opportunity to understand the full impact the cuts will have on the daily lives of North Dakota families and our local economy.

As you know, pursuant to the Multistate Pension Reform Act (MPRA), Central States Plan has submitted an application to the Treasury Department to reduce benefits. The Central States Plan proposes significant cuts to pension benefits that will have a far reaching impact on hard working families in North Dakota and the broader economy. Many CSPF participants could see up to a 60 percent cut to their benefits. This will have a particularly devastating effect on families in North Dakota who depend on their pensions for a safe and secure retirement. Cuts will fall on the shoulders of men and women who worked in labor intensive positions, such as truck drivers, where decades of work have taken a significant physical toll on their bodies. Over 2,000 North Dakota families will be impacted by Treasury's decisions, many of whom will see their benefits reduced, despite a lifetime of contributing to their pensions and playing by the rules.

I am sensitive to the unique challenges facing the Central States Plan's financial situation. Treasury should exercise its authority prudently and work with those affected to find a workable solution that solidifies the fund's solvency without unduly burdening pensioners or unnecessarily jeopardizing retirement security. I look forward to working with you as the Treasury Department moves forward with its review of the Central States Plan's application.

Thank you for your consideration of my request to visit North Dakota to hear directly from the individuals who will be impacted by the proposed cuts, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate

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