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## United States Senate

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December 11, 2015

The Honorable Jacob J. Lew  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Treasury  
1550 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Lew,

I am writing to urge you to carefully consider the interests of pension participants and retirees as the Treasury moves forward with its review of the Central State Pension Fund's (CSPF's) plan application under the Multistate Pension Reform Act (MPRA).

As you are aware, the CSPF's application proposes significant cuts to pension benefits that will have a far reaching impact on hard working families 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 urge you to listen carefully to the concerns of the thousands of CSPF pensioners and take their comments and concerns into consideration as you move through the application review process. While I understand a participant vote against the proposed plan is not binding on the Treasury, a participant vote of no confidence should be taken seriously that the plan as currently drafted is unworkable for pensioners and their families.

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

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp  
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