

HEIDI HEITKAMP
NORTH DAKOTA
HART SENATE BUILDING 110
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
PH: 202-224-2043
FAX: 202-224-7776
TOLL FREE: 1-800-223-4457

<http://www.heitkamp.senate.gov>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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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
UNITED STATES SENATE

BISMARCK OFFICE:
228 FEDERAL BUILDING
220 EAST ROSSEN AVENUE
BISMARCK, ND 58501
PH: 701-258-4648
FAX: 701-258-1254

DICKINSON OFFICE:
40 1ST AVENUE WEST
SUITE 202
DICKINSON, ND 58601
PH: 701-225-0974
FAX: 701-225-3287

FARGO OFFICE:
308 FEDERAL BUILDING
857 SECOND AVENUE NORTH
FARGO, ND 58102
PH: 701-232-8030 - 1-800-223-4457
FAX: 701-232-6449

GRAND FORKS OFFICE:
33 S. 3RD ST., SUITE B
GRAND FORKS, ND 58201
PH: 701-776-9601
FAX: 701-746-1990

MINOT OFFICE:
105 FEDERAL BUILDING
100 FIRST STREET S.W.
MINOT, ND 58701
PH: 701-852-0703
FAX: 701-838-8196