Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2016

Mr. Kenneth Feinberg
Special Master for Implementation
U.S. Department of the Treasury
MPRA Office (Attn: Deva Kyle)
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Room 1224
Washington, DC 20220

RE: TREAS-D0-2015-0009-0001

Dear Special Master Feinberg:

We write today on behalf of the thousands of retirees and the families we represent in strong opposition to the reduction in benefits proposed by the Board of Trustees of the Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Plan (Central States Pension Plan) (CSPF), which has submitted an application to the Treasury Department to reduce benefits under the CSPF in accordance with the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (MPRA).

The proposed cuts by Central States will affect about 270,000 people with a significant number of those retirees facing severe cuts of 50-70 percent. Pension benefits are hard earned by workers over a lifetime of labor and commitment. These cuts will have a dire impact not only on individual workers and retirees, but their entire communities as well. In addition, we have serious concerns that government safety net programs will increasingly be the only option left for families who will face a drastic reduction in their purchasing power.

We do not believe placing an inordinate burden on middle-class workers and retirees is the only option for Central States. For these reasons and more, we urge the Treasury Department to deny this application and move forward with a more equitable solution.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

John Conyers
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

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Paul Tonko
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