



601 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 900, South Building  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2601  
Tel: 202-220-3172  
Fax: 202-639-8238  
Toll-Free: 1-866-360-7197  
Email: [nrlnmessage@msn.com](mailto:nrlnmessage@msn.com)  
Website: <http://www.NRLN.org>

**Board of Directors:**

Bill Kadereit, President  
Robert Tompkins, VP – Secretary/Treasurer  
Robert Foresta, VP – Legislative Affairs  
Bob Martina, V P – Grassroots Network  
Jane Banfield  
Will Buergey  
John Christie  
Joseph R. (Dick) Ciocca  
Chris Dyrda  
Chuck Gilbert  
Kitty Kennedy  
Ralph Maly  
Mary Ann Neuman  
Judy Stenberg  
Ray Sternot

**Washington & Support Staff**

**Executive Director:** Marta Bascom  
**Legislative Strategist:** Michael Calabrese  
**VP - Communications:** Ed Beltram  
**Webmaster:** Joe Sciuilli

**NRLN is a coalition of 26 associations advocating the rights of 2.1 million American retirees from...**

Aetna / Agilent / American Airlines / Ameritech/SBC / AMF / American Mutual / Amica Mutual / AT&T / Avaya / Avin Meritor / Ball Aerospace / Bell Atlantic / Bell Helicopter / Bendix / Boeing / California State Employees / Caterpillar / C & P Telephone / Chrysler / Commonwealth Edison / Continental General Tire / Datatronics / Delphi / Delta Airlines / Diamond State (84) / Detroit Edison / Detroit Diesel / Eastman Chemical Co. / Enco Alloys / Entergy Operations, Inc. / Exelon / FedEx / Fisher Scientific Co. / Ford / General Motors/ General Telephone / Gulf Oil / Hoechst Celanese / Holophane / Honeywell Vorr / Hughes Aircraft / HWB / IBM / IBEW / J. I. Case Corp. / John Deere / Johns Manville / Johnson & Johnson / Kodak / Lockheed Martin / Lucent Technologies / Marlboro / McDonnell Douglas / MCI / MetLife / Michcon / Mobil Oil / Monsanto/Solutia / PacBell / PECO Energy / Pension Actuary / Pfizer / Phila Electric Co. / Polaroid / Portland GE-Enron / Prudential / Public Service of Colorado / Raytheon / Rock-Tenn Co. / Rocky Mount Mills / Rohm & Haas. Co. / Salis / Southern New England Tel / Spherion Corp. / Springs Mills / Sprint / Telesector Resources Group / Texas Instruments / Rouse Co. / Transamerica / Ullico / United Airlines / UPS / US Airways / USAF Trucking / US West-Qwest / Wells Fargo / Western Union / Weyerhaeuser /

October 24, 2009

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

In my February 12, 2009 letter to you, I requested that your Administration intervene in the Delphi Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings to prevent the cancellation of health care and life insurance benefits for 15,000 Delphi salaried retirees. Unfortunately, there was no intervention by your Administration and the Delphi salaried retirees have had the benefits that they earned through many years of service to General Motors and Delphi eliminated. Furthermore, Delphi retirees have had their pension plan taken over by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) and numerous retirees face substantial reductions in their pension payments.

To add insult to injury, Delphi salaried retirees were treated much worse than the Delphi union retirees. This type of disparate treatment is unconscionable.

Mr. President, what has happened to your campaign promise and the commitment that was once stated on the White House website that you would put workers (and I hope retirees) "higher on the list of debts that companies cannot shed" in bankruptcy cases?

Bankruptcy cases such as Delphi, General Motors, Chrysler and Delta Air Lines have highlighted--and in some cases created--tragic shortcomings in the Bankruptcy Code and in the way the PBGC calculates payments. I urge you to call on Congress to develop and pass legislation to better protect retirees in bankruptcy proceedings and when pension plans go into default.

The National Retiree Legislative Network that represents the interests of more than 2 million retirees recently commissioned a task force to examine the Bankruptcy Code and PBGC rules. White papers have been written pointing out the urgent need for legislative reform. The NRLN would be pleased to share the two white papers with your staff. Please ask a member of your staff to contact Marta Bascom, the NRLN's Executive Director in Washington, DC, at 703-863-9611.

There is one thing that your Administration and Congress have done that has been beneficial to Delphi salaried retirees. As part of the stimulus package, the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) was increased from 65% to 80%. I encourage you to ask Congress to make the HCTC permanent at 80%.

Please help retirees protect their pensions and benefits by reforming the bankruptcy code and PBGC rules.

Sincerely,

President, National Retiree Legislative Network