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NRLN is a coalition of 30 Retiree Associations advocating the rights of more than 2 million American retirees from...
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June 6, 2010

The Honorable Sander Levin, Chairman
House Ways & Means Committee
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2212

Dear Chairman Levin:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us in your district office on June 2nd. The leaders of the Chrysler, General Motors and Detroit Edison retiree organizations and I, along with retirees from 114 U.S. companies, appreciate you taking the time to fully understand our country's retirees' frustration with the corporate raiding of their pension assets. We are hopeful that you will soon act on the need to pursue legislation that will advance the National Retiree Legislative Network's (NRLN) Pension Asset Protection (PAP) proposal, as we discussed.

As you mentioned, none of us who met with you are from your district so we were appreciative that you met with us in the knowledge that as the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee you work on behalf of retirees within your district and across the country. It is extremely important to all retirees that you and other leaders in Congress support the specific needs of retirees, especially in these times when both non-represented and represented retirees are losing so much in terms of financial security.

We appreciate your commitment to meet with us in your Washington, D.C. office on September 14th and will contact your scheduler to confirm the appointment. In the meantime, we look forward to continuing to work with your staff on the committee and in your personal offices in Washington, D.C. and Roseville. Based on your stated interest in the issues affecting retirees, we believe that, going forward, our members can rely on your support for basic fairness in pension policy. Specifically, we look forward to working with you on the NRLN's proposal to limit the practice of using pension assets for lump sum severance distributions that should rightfully come from corporate operating expenses. Our deep disappointment that this provision did not remain in the bill coming out of committee notwithstanding, we look forward to working with you and your staff to a positive end.

Again, thank you very much for meeting with us. We greatly appreciate your sincerity and commitment to working with us to bring fairness back to pension policy on behalf of America's retirees.

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President
National Retiree Legislative Network
972-722-5928