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The NRLN advocates the rights of more than 2 million American retirees from...

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February 9, 2017

The Honorable Thomas Marino, Chairman, Subcommittee
Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law
U.S. House of Representatives
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3810

Dear Chairman Marino:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of the National Retirees Legislative Network (NRLN), I am requesting that you call for a vote in the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law on **H.R. 138, Protecting Employees and Retirees in Business Bankruptcies Act of 2017.**

This bill is especially important to retirees because it would amend Section 502 of title 11 of the United States Code to allow a claim by an active or retired participant in a defined benefit plan terminated under section 4042 of ERISA for any shortfall in pensions benefits accrued as a result of plan termination not withstanding any claim asserted and collected by the PBGC with respect to such plan termination.

Passage of this bill would be very beneficial to members of the NRLN Avaya Retirees Chapter. Avaya filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on January 19, 2017. The company, effective February 1, 2017, stopped payments to retirees on a Disability Pension and ended supplemental pension payments. Retirees are concerned there will be even more harmful actions against them by Avaya and/or the bankruptcy court.

If you have any questions about why the NRLN is supporting H.R. 138, please contact Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director, at executivedirector@nrln.org or at 813-545-6792.

Your calling for a vote and support of H.R. 138 that could move the bill to the Judiciary Committee would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President
National Retiree Legislative Network

Copy to: Rep. John Conyers, Jr.