

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

David Scott
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Brad Ashford
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Ted Lieu
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



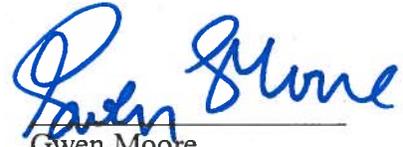
Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress



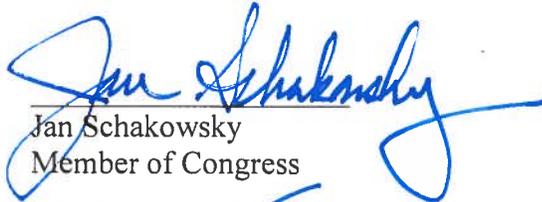
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



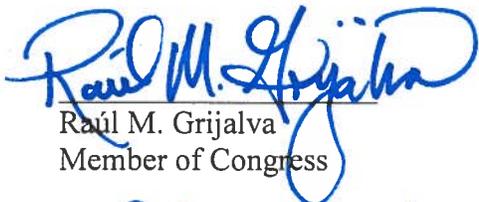
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



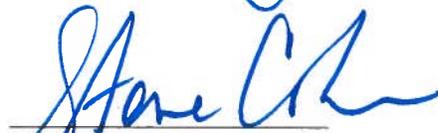
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



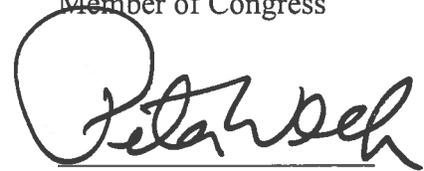
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



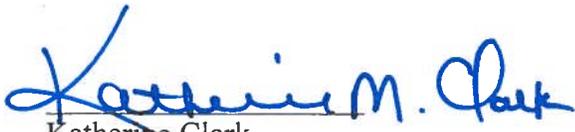
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark
Member of Congress



Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Dan Lipinski
Member of Congress



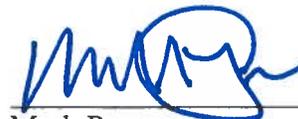
Alcee Hastings
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



John Yarmuth
Member of Congress



Ted Deutch
Member of Congress



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Robin Kelly
Member of Congress



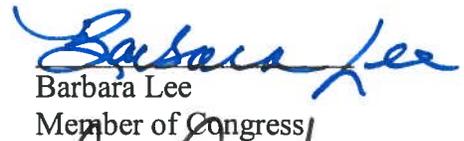
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Elizabeth Esty
Member of Congress



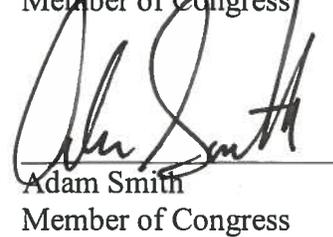
Jerry Nadler
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



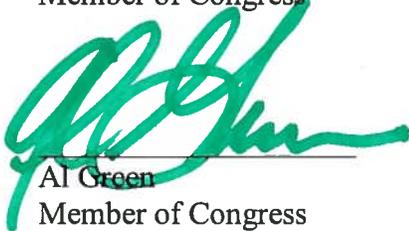
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress



Al Green
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Adam Schiff
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
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Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



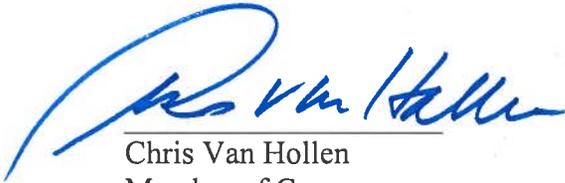
Bill Foster
Member of Congress



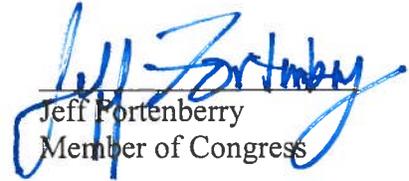
Michael Capuano
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



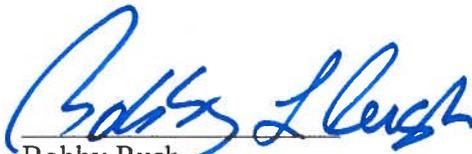
Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



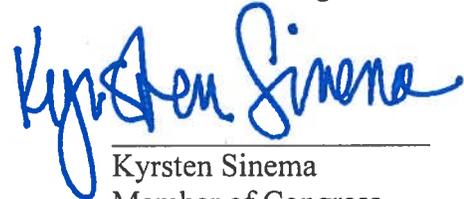
Rick Nolan
Member of Congress



Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



Bobby Rush
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Scott Garrett
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress