

Susan Mauren
Retiree Representative to the
Central States Pension Fund
Email: CentralStatesRetireeRep@losgs.com

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Ms. Susan Mauren
Retiree Representative
PO Box 15670
Minneapolis, MN 55415

To My Fellow Retirees:
Please Read This Letter Carefully.

As you may know, the Central States Pension Fund (the “Fund”) has for some time faced serious financial challenges. According to the Fund’s trustees, unless there are significant changes, the Fund will run out of money. This would leave you – and me – with only the benefit payments guaranteed by the government’s Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (the “PBGC”). Payments from the PBGC are generally less – in some cases, much less – than payments from the Fund. Furthermore, the PBGC itself has financial troubles. We cannot be certain that the PBGC could always make the payments it “guarantees.”

On December 16, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014¹ (“MPRA”). Under this new law, a pension fund may reduce benefit payments to retirees and future retirees to preserve its long-term financial health. However, the most vulnerable retirees, those over age 80 and those who retired with a disability pension would continue to receive their full benefit payments. And every participant would remain entitled to benefit payments that are at least 10 percent greater than the PBGC-guaranteed payments.

I know firsthand that the Fund’s Trustees are making every effort to ensure the Fund is able to continue to pay our benefits. Their efforts include consideration of benefit reductions under MPRA. As a result, the Trustees are required by law to appoint a “Retiree Representative”. I have been appointed to serve in that role.

MPRA requires the Retiree Representative to be a voice on behalf of all the Fund’s retirees while the Fund considers benefit reductions under MPRA. I will not be paid for my efforts as Retiree Representative. However, the Fund will reimburse me for the costs of independent legal counsel and actuarial consultants of my choice. This will enable me to independently review any proposed reductions to benefit payments by the Fund under MPRA.

As a 34-year Teamster, I am retired and receiving a pension check from the Fund. Like you, I face the painful reality that my monthly checks may be less in the future than they are today. However, we are each unique. To help the Fund understand the perspective of *all* retirees, I need to hear your views. I invite you to contact me by email at CentralStatesRetireeRep@losgs.com. You may also reach me by United States Mail at P.O. Box 15670, Minneapolis, MN 55415. Please share with me your thoughts, questions, and concerns. Unfortunately, I cannot respond to your questions, comments, and concerns individually. But I will communicate your views to the Fund, which will help the Fund find the best resolution of this challenging situation. While I have no vote in the final determination of the Fund Trustee’s course of action, I can provide an independent perspective to help those who have a vote understand how their decision will affect us.

¹ If you would like to review the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 in full, a copy is available at losgs.com/MPRA14TEXT.

Keep in mind that this is a process of many steps, and we are at the beginning. I may issue additional letters as we progress to ask your thoughts on specific matters. I understand that you may have questions about the MPRA and its impact on Central States Pension Fund participants. The Fund has created a website to provide information on a timely basis and to answer your questions. All of my communications to Fund retirees will also be posted on this website. I encourage you to visit www.CSPensionRescue.com for more information and to register your email address to receive future updates in electronic format.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S Mauren". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letter 'S' being particularly large and stylized.

Susan Mauren
Retiree Representative
Central States Pension Fund

Except as expressly stated, all opinions within this letter are solely those of the Retiree Representative to the Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Fund. All statements of fact regarding the Fund are based on representations by the Fund.