

Dear Congressman/Senator:

I am a retiree of Teamsters Local 707 based in Hempstead, NY. On February 1, 2017, our Union's pension fund ran out of money and is now funded by the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation. Unfortunately, this means a more than 2/3 reduction in my monthly pension benefit. Annual benefits for a 30-year pension are reduced in most cases from \$45,000 a year to less than \$13,000.

Our pension fund, Road Carriers Local 707 Pension Fund, is a multi-employer pension fund made up of workers in the unionized trucking industry. Due to deregulation of the trucking industry beginning in the 1980's, there was a sharp decline in the employment in the unionized trucking industry. This led to an imbalance of retirees to active members of 4.5 to 1. In addition, our largest employer, which makes up 2/3 of the active contributors, only pays 25% of what they contributed in 2009. This was done to avoid bankruptcy.

Prior to the passage of the Multi-Employer Pension Reform Act of 2014, our pension fund had no ability to make changes to the fund which may have prolonged the life of the fund. Our pension fund made repeated efforts for relief under MEPRA for suspension, facilitated merger and partitioning. All were rejected by the Treasury and PBGC.

The last application under MEPRA was for Partitioning which would have provided relief for certain protected classes, such as those above ages 75 and those on disability pensions. The application was rejected--the first rejection of any fund by the PBGC. Although the PBGC was sympathetic, they believed the rules in place did not allow them to approve our fund's application.

Our fund continues to seek legislative relief which would allow the fund to be approved for Partitioning. This will provide substantial relief on those retirees over age 75 or on a disability pension, and a 10% increase in other pensions. It also allows for active employees to accrue a benefit above the PBGC guarantee which is needed to keep new workers into the industry. Our fund is a victim of deregulation and antiquated pension rules for which, unfortunately, MEPRA was too little, too late. Supporting legislation which helps funds like ours to be approved for Partitioning is a first step in fixing our broken pension system. Eventually, the PBGC must be restructured to provide a safety net like that of single employer plans. These changes are needed to allow me and my family to have the dignified retirement I worked so hard for and I believed was guaranteed.

I am imploring you to support any legislation which helps funds like ours that have fallen between the cracks of MEPRA.

Sincerely,