



**TO:** PRINCIPAL OFFICER & POLITICAL COORDINATOR

**FROM:** JOHN F. MURPHY  
INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

**DATE:** JANUARY 21, 2016

**RE:** RETIREE MAILING REGARDING CENTRAL STATES'  
MPRA APPLICATION

Attached, please find a copy of the letter that was distributed to all Retiree Chapters that have been determined to have participants in the Central States Pension Fund. If you receive calls from your current or retired members regarding the cuts to the Central States Fund, please ask them to call the **Teamsters Pension Protection Hotline** at **1-888-979-9806**, and encourage retirees to submit comments directly to the Treasury Department. Additionally, if your Local Union has not submitted comments, and would like to know how to do so, please contact Megan Evans at (202) 624-8972 for more information.

The IBT has been working closely with Members of the U.S. House and Senate to get signatures for a collective sign-on letter requesting that the Treasury Department reject the Central States plan. Individual Members of Congress may contact your Local Union to find out more information. Please encourage them to contact the offices of Rep. Debbie Dingell in the House and Sen. Gary Peters in the Senate to sign on to these important letters.

If you have question, contact the Department of Political & Legislative Action's Legislative Assistant, Megan Evans, at (202) 624-8972.

JFM/rs  
Attachments

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA  
General President

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001



KEN HALL  
General Secretary-Treasurer

202.624.6800  
www.teamster.org

January 15, 2016

Dear Retiree Chapter President:

As you are well aware, the Central States Pension Fund has filed an application with the Treasury Department to begin cutting benefits for current and future Teamster retirees. The IBT is vehemently and publicly opposed to this plan, and has always been publicly opposed to any legislation allowing multiemployer pension funds, such as the Central States Fund, to reduce accrued pension benefits.

Unfortunately, in December 2014, Congress passed the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (MPRA) as part of a must-pass Omnibus spending bill, in spite of the fact that General President Hoffa repeatedly urged members of the House and the Senate to vote against the bill. Nonetheless, the bill was adopted by Congress at the end of 2014.

Since the approval of MPRA, the IBT has continued to voice its opposition to any action that would result in cuts to accrued pension benefits. Further, and although, the IBT does not control the Central States Fund, we are taking every possible action to prevent proposed pension cuts from being implemented. For example, on December 7, 2015, the IBT forwarded comments to the Treasury Department that urges it to reject the proposed cuts Central States' trustees had submitted for approval.

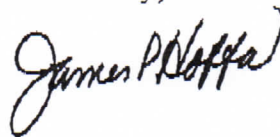
Now, we are asking you and fellow members of your Retiree Chapter to contact your Members of Congress to demand that the Treasury Department reject the Central States cuts, as well. Tell your Senators and Representative how the loss of income will impact your daily life, and urge them to tell the Treasury Department that the cuts must be rejected. **Call the Teamsters Pension Protection Hotline at 1-888-979-9806 to be connected directly to the offices of your Members of Congress, so you can let them know how much this issue means to you.**

At the same time that we are asking the Treasury Department to reject cuts, the IBT continues to look for better solutions and has endorsed the bill, "Keep our Pension Promises Act" (or KOPPA), sponsored by Senator Bernie Sanders (S.1631) and Representative Marcy Kaptur (H.R.2844), which, among other things, would restore pension fund anti-cutback rules so that participants and retirees will be protected from having their accrued pension benefits cut.

In addition, the IBT has endorsed the Pension Accountability Act, which was introduced in the Senate (S.2147) by Senator Rob Portman, and in the House (H.R.4029) by Representatives David Joyce and Tim Ryan. This piece of legislation would restore credibility and fairness to the voting process for proposed pension cuts. Under MPRA, the voting by plan participants is effectively non-binding and can be overturned by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Further, under the current law, any ballot that is not returned is counted in favor of the cuts. The Pension Accountability Act establishes that all votes will be binding, and ensures that unreturned ballots are not counted as either for or against cuts.

While these legislative avenues are the right way to fix current law, we must persuade the Treasury Department to stop the cuts from happening in the first place to protect all Teamster families who would be affected. So, please call the **Teamsters Pension Protection Hotline right now at 1-888-979-9806** to talk to your Members of Congress, and distribute the enclosed flyer to members of your Retiree Chapter to encourage others to call. The Treasury Department's rejection of the Central States cuts and our support of KOPPA and the Pension Accountability Act are top priorities for our Union, and are an integral part of our efforts to protect members' earned benefits, and to ensure that participants and retirees in pension funds have an effective voice in their own futures.

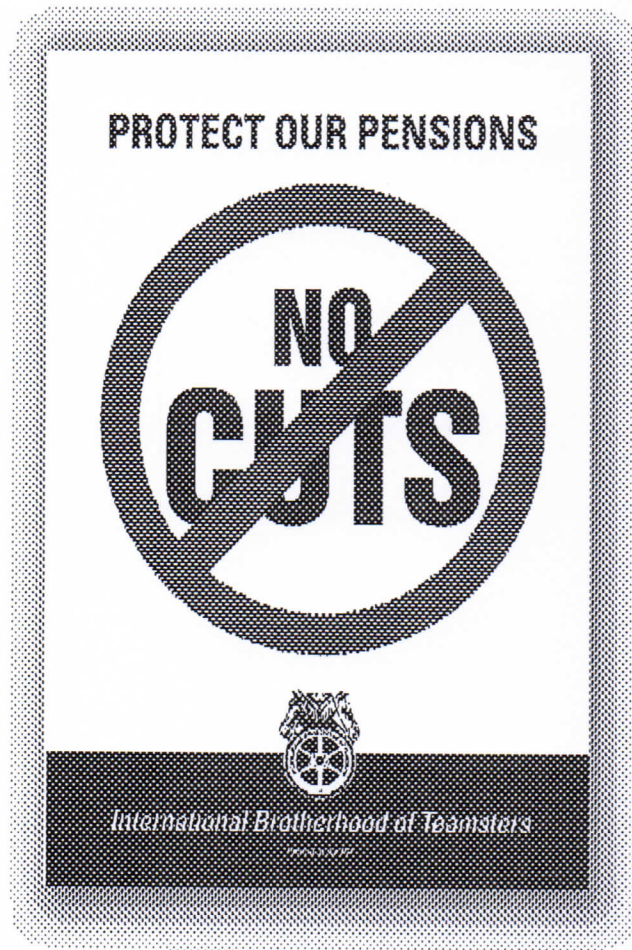
Fraternally,



James P. Hoffa  
General President

JPH/rs

# Teamsters Pension Protection Hotline



***Tell Your Member of Congress: Treasury can stop  
the Central States cuts!***

Tell your Senators and Representative how cuts will impact your life, and ask them to contact Treasury to reject the cuts.

**CALL 1-888-979-9806 TODAY!**

**Suggested Talking Points:**

I am calling as a Teamster retiree who will be impacted by the Central States Rescue Plan.

I was informed that my pension will be cut significantly, and I don't know how I will be able to continue with my quality of life if this plan is not rejected by the Treasury Department.

Not only will this impact me, but it will also impact my family and the local businesses where I spend money.

I would like your office to ask the Treasury Department to reject the proposed Central States Rescue Plan to force Central States to come up with a better, sounder plan that will protect the pension that I was promised, and I worked all my life to earn.

While we are speaking, I would also like to request that your office consider supporting the "Keep Our Pension Promises Act" and the "Pension Accountability Act." Both of these will go a long way to protecting pensions into the future.

Thank you.