Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

We write to express our significant concern over the crisis facing multiemployer pensions across our country. Recently, our constituents in the New York State Teamsters Conference Pension and Retirement Fund (Upstate NY) and Road Carriers Local 707 Pension Fund (Local 707) had their benefits slashed due to funding shortfalls in their multiemployer pension plans. The Upstate NY plan cut benefits to current retirees by 29 percent, while Local 707 retirees had their benefits slashed by more than 70 percent, reducing retiree pensions by more than $2,200 per month.

Millions of American workers who are participants in multiemployer pension plans across the country are facing similarly devastating cuts to their benefits. Multiemployer pension plans have been undermined by years of systemic underfunding, corporate bankruptcies, and the two financial market crashes between 2000 and 2009. This pending disaster would not only be devastating for the workers that rely on these benefits, but would also force many of the employers supporting the funds into bankruptcy from the withdrawal liability they would face should the plan become insolvent.

The 2016 annual report of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), the government agency tasked with backing these multiemployer pension plans, warned that the PBGC’s multiemployer plan was projected to become insolvent in 2025, highlighting the increasing severity of this problem. Perhaps most concerning is the projected insolvency of the Teamsters Central States multiemployer plan, one of the largest plans in the country, by late 2024.
It is imperative Congress acts immediately to address this looming crisis. Our constituents in New York have already been hit hard and are suffering because of our inaction. If we act soon, we can improve their circumstances and prevent millions of other workers and retirees throughout our country from facing a similar outcome.

We urge your Committees to negotiate a bipartisan solution, and to do so before other retirees are required to make severe personal sacrifices that can be avoided with congressional leadership and action.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John Katko
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Peter King
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

John J. Faso
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress
Gregory Meeks
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries
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Grace Meng
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Eliot L. Engel
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Louise Slaughter
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
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Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

CC: Chairwoman Virginia Foxx, Committee on Education and the Workforce
CC: Chairman Kevin Brady, Committee on Ways and Means
CC: Ranking Member Robert C. “Bobby” Scott, Committee on Education and the Workforce
CC: Ranking Member Richard Neal, Committee on Ways and Means