

**Committee on Financial Services**  
**Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations**  
*Field Hearing entitled "After the Financial Crisis: Ongoing Challenges  
Facing Delphi Retirees"*

**Testimony by Lt. Governor Lee Fisher on July 13, 2010**

Good morning Chairman Moore, Representatives Wilson, Ryan, and Lee.

Thank you, for the opportunity to testify today and for conducting this field hearing on this critical issue.

I am honored to speak on behalf of the Strickland/Fisher administration. Governor Strickland asked that I present this letter to you and share his regrets that his schedule did not allow him to attend. I am honored he asked me to testify on this very important issue in his absence.

I am here today to testify on behalf of more than 20,000 non-union Delphi retirees and 100 workers represented by the International Union of Operating Engineers and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

These employees, many from Northeast Ohio, worked as secretaries, technicians, engineers and sales people - and devoted years, some as many as four decades, to their company, General Motors.

Now, the very people that helped build General Motors through their labor are losing the retirement they earned over a lifetime of service.

When DELPHI spun off from General Motors, most had no choice but to go work for this new company and continue their careers.

Now, these workers are being denied the full pension benefits that their colleagues at General Motors will receive.

At its core, this is an issue of fairness. We owe it to the men and women who played by the rules and worked hard to get the retirement they have earned.

This loss will force many families nearer to the poverty level and cause further damage to the economies of cities like Warren and Dayton who are already reeling from the fallout of the global economic crisis and the decline of domestic automotive production.

These retirees will lose over \$300,000 in pension payments on average. These pension payments are not a handout - they were earned over years of hard work - many of those years spent at General Motors working alongside colleagues who will receive their full pensions.

Men and women like . . .

Louis Liguore, who was forced to leave GM/Delphi after over twenty-five years of service. During those years, Louis was even inducted into the General Motors Hall of Fame.

Louis has been looking for work and has applied to well over 300 jobs. Unfortunately, at sixty years old, it is nearly impossible for him to find work. He and his wife now face a monthly income close to the poverty line and face what he calls a “shattered future”.

Mary Ann Hudzick, who will be sharing her story during the second panel, worked for 30 ½ years, 22 of those years with GM. Mary Ann and her husband counted on the pension, health benefits and life insurance she earned during her years of hard work in accounting and customer service. The loss in her benefits was something she could not plan for or anticipate. She is happy that her friends from General Motors are receiving the benefits they earned, but cannot understand why she is being treated so unfairly.

These stories are just a few examples of what has been shared with me when I have traveled the state and by those who contact my office. People who face the same kind of “shattered future” Louis does. People who have worked a lifetime for a company and now face foreclosure, bankruptcy, and chronic health problems for which they cannot afford treatment.

We owe it to Louis, Mary Anne and ALL of the Delphi retirees to take all steps possible to secure their pensions.

That's why I'm urging the Obama administration to encourage General Motors to meet its obligations to Delphi retirees.

That's why I will continue to advocate for fair and equitable treatment for the working people who played by the rules and dedicated many years of loyal service to both GM and Delphi.

And that is why I will continue to work with Governor Strickland, Senator Brown, Congressman Tim Ryan, Congressman Charlie Wilson and all Delphi retirees to make sure this issue is resolved quickly and is resolved equitably.

They deserve nothing less.

THANK YOU.