

Testimony of Mary T. Miller, DSRA Member

Monday, June 10, 2013

Subcommittee on Government Operations

Thank you Congressmen for inviting me to testify today.

I am Mary Miller.

General Motors decided in 1999 to spin-off their component parts business. This spin-off became Delphi Corporation. Delphi Corporation, the largest automotive parts supplier in the world, was integral to GM's success. Most Delphi Retirees worked two-thirds or more of their careers in service to GM and only a small part of their career for Delphi. I worked 22 years for GM and only 9 years for Delphi. I was forced to retire in 2008 when Delphi decided to permanently close their Brake Operations in Dayton, Ohio, where I worked as an HR Manager.

All GM salary retirees are receiving their full pensions, all GM hourly retirees are receiving their full pensions, and all Delphi hourly retirees of major unions are receiving their full pensions. So what brings us together this morning if all of these retirees are receiving their full pensions? We're here today because one key group, who worked side-by-side with all these other people, isn't receiving their full pensions. The Delphi salaried retirees have lost up to 70 percent of our hard earned pensions. The Delphi salaried retirees' pensions were decimated in 2009 during the Auto Task Force's rush to settle GM's bankruptcy. This loss has been devastating for the salaried retirees and their families—causing home foreclosures, bankruptcies, family breakups, suicides, serious stress-related illnesses, and an on-going struggle to pay routine bills.

How can it be legal for the government to pick winners and losers amongst its own citizens? For me and many of my fellow retirees the burden of trying to figure out how to make ends meet gets heavier every day. We are real people suffering real hardships. And all the while many of our neighbors with whom we worked side-by-side for years are receiving their full pensions. The Delphi hourly retirees of major unions are receiving every pension dollar they earned. The American tax payers are paying for top-ups for all of the hourly retirees of major unions—top-ups that were won during the GM bankruptcy by politically connected individuals.

The PBGC was created to help save retirement plans and that is what I believe it tries to do. Just look at its efforts in the recent cases of American Airlines and Tower Automotive. What was different in our case? What was unique about our salaried pensions that allowed the PBGC to

do nothing to defend and protect our pensions; pensions that were well funded and very savable.

We've all heard over-and-over how proud the Administration is of the Auto Task Force's effort to save automotive jobs in America. We've heard time-after-time how everything the Auto Task Force, the Treasury and the PBGC did to help preserve those jobs was done normally and within the law. If they are so proud of everything they've done then why are they so secretive about giving us the records we've been asking for since 2010? They have thwarted us at every turn, denying our request for documents, not complying with our subpoena for their records and even going to a different court to quash this subpoena. It really makes you eager to know what they are so desperate to hide that a White House attorney indicated they would use Executive Privilege to keep from revealing their records, if subpoenaed. And this from the same administration that promised "Transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency."

The PBGC has stonewalled every request we've made. The Treasury has been downright non-participative regarding every record we've asked them to provide. The House Ways and Means Committee asked for Treasury records last fall—none have been provided to date. We are asking the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to obtain the Treasury's records so the truth about our case can finally be uncovered.

Our Delphi Salaried Retirees have been brave in the face of adversity. In the midst of their financial losses our members have contributed from their greatly reduced resources to fund a legal battle to win back our full pensions.

While we will never give up our fight-- we do need your help to win. We need our congressional representatives to be our advocates; to use your power, given to make our government one of checks and balances, to demand this blatant wrong be righted immediately. Not later this year, not next year, not some time in the future but NOW. This fight has been going on for almost four years. It's time to end this disparate treatment and settle this egregious wrong while most of our retirees are still living.

This can be done today with no cost to the tax payers. The funds the PBGC received for our salaried pensions are more than enough to make our pensions whole. Join us in our brave fight to win back what is rightfully ours. Don't let anymore time slip by without pressing our case forward to resolve this shameful violation of the law. Help us move from being victims to victors.

Reassure us and millions of others that this is still America—the land of the free and the home of the brave. Thank you.