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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DELAURO

3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

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EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

June 28, 2008

Mr. William Henderson, President
Communications Workers of America
3055 Dixwell Avenue
Hamden, Connecticut 06518-3501

Dear Bill,

I regret that I cannot join you, but would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of today's participants as they continue fighting on behalf of middle class families and all working people in our country.

As many of you know, my mother is part of a long and proud line of garment workers whose struggles and sacrifices are woven into the fabric of New Haven's history, culture, and identity. She, along with millions of others, helped to build this country and share in its wealth. They asked only to be treated fairly—honest pay for an honest day's work—to buy a home, raise a family and educate their children – to enjoy the fruits of life in a prosperous country.

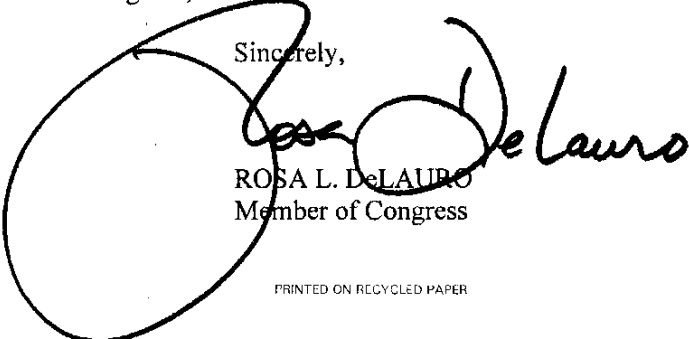
But today, in a weakening economy with almost no margin for error, the middle class is feeling squeezed like never before. They have fewer options to help them endure the roller coaster ride, and when things do not go as planned, they are on their own with very limited protection and very little means to recover.

Unions, that have played so important a role throughout our history, have been weakened by a federal government determined to tilt the balance against them, by the expansion of contracting out practices and by companies who send good jobs overseas to cut costs and slash benefits. Yet a good economic plan must allow unions to be a voice for higher wages and adequate benefits again.

If there is going to be any justice in the workplaces in this country—if employees are going to have a say in these decisions—we need to enact new laws like the *Employee Free Choice Act*, put teeth in the National Labor Relations Act and protect the right of Americans to organize. Absent a vibrant labor movement fighting for employee rights, higher standards, greater equality, security in work and retirement, middle class families will continue to be put at risk. Absent a vibrant labor movement, our politics would be driven not by your dreams and aspirations, but by corporate power and the narrow agenda of the elites and the most privileged.

I am sorry that I cannot join you today. Please keep in touch and keep up the good fight. With my best wishes and warmest regards,

Sincerely,


ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress