

DRAFT LETTER FOR 760

Select Committee on Pension Policy
P.O. Box 40914
Olympia, WA 98504-0914

August 20, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Teamsters Local Union 760, located primarily in Central Washington, represents hundreds of municipal and county public safety employees. These employees should be considered for the Public Safety Employees Retirement System (PSERS) and the Early Retirement Factor (ERF) because the responsibilities of their job classifications come with one or more of the following factors:

- High degree of physical risk
- High stress environment
- Potential exposure to severe risk on a daily basis
- Responsibility to provide public protection of lives and/or property
- High physical demands
- Exposure to violent criminal activity and its aftermath
- Minimal opportunity to advance into managerial/supervisory roles

These employees hold a wide variety of job titles, including :

Non-commissioned local law enforcement: Local and state law enforcement agencies non-commissioned staff suffer a high risk of stress and physical harm. Clerical, dispatch, department of security officers and animal control officers are just a few of these positions with constant exposure to dangerous circumstances and potential trauma. Local 760 represents these employees at Yakima, Kittitas, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Okanogan, and Adams Counties as well as municipal public safety including dozens of public safety employees who face daily exposure to high stress and risk.

Public road crews, waste water and solid waste: Road crews, waste water and refuse employees face high physical risks and stress from reckless drivers, construction equipment, high heat and freezing temperatures and hazardous/toxic/bio-hazardous working conditions. Our members at the Brewster, Coulee Dam, Ellensburg, Grandview, Granger, Kittitas, Mabton, Naches, Quincy, Selah, Sunnyside, Toppenish, Yakima, and Zillah Public Works and refuse

departments work hard, and have physical jobs and deserve coverage and access to early retirement benefits.

Classified School Employees: K-12 classified employees work in many different classifications of work. In some cases these classifications of work require exposure to environmental hazards which over a long career can lead to increased risk of industrial illnesses and injuries. In addition, there are K-12 classified who are required to maintain a CDL (Commercial Drivers License). As a person ages it becomes harder and harder to pass the biennial DOT physical. For these reason, facilities services employees working in high risk classifications such as custodians, grounds and building maintenance, warehouse workers and truck driver, bus drivers, and bus mechanics should be considered for inclusion in PSERS. Local 760 represents hundreds of school district employees including at the Yakima School District and West Valley School District.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Wayne Johnson

Business Representative

Teamsters local Union #760