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**Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Helpers
Local Union No. 589**

Affiliated with
International Brotherhood of Teamsters

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DRAFT LETTER FOR 589

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

August 20, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Teamsters Local 589, located primarily on the Olympic Peninsula, 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. Property, forensics, juvenile detention and animal control officers are just a few of these positions with constant exposure to dangerous circumstances and potential trauma. Local 589 represents these employees at **Jefferson County** as well as municipal public safety including dozens of public safety employees

in Forks, Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Poulsbo, Sequim, Port Orchard, who face daily exposure to high stress and risk.

Public road crews: Road crews face high physical risks and stress from reckless drivers, construction equipment, high heat and freezing temperatures and hazardous working conditions. Our members at the **Jefferson County, Kitsap County and Clallam County Road Departments** work hard, 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 589 represents hundreds of school district employees including at the **Chimacum School District No. 49, Port Angeles School District No. 121 and Sequim School District No. 323.**

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John Witte

Teamsters Local 589

Secretary Treasurer