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Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 2:04:30 PM
To: Schoesler, Sen. Mark <Mark.Schoesler@leg.wa.gov>
Subject: Washington Safety

CAUTION: External email.

Dear Senator Schoesler,

Energy Northwest (ENW) Officers humbly request the honor of switching from PERS to LEOFF.

We have received support from Police Chief's, Fire Chief's, Police Officers and Firemen as well as current LEOFF retirees throughout our region and the state including but not limited to the Richland Police Chief John W. Bruce, Richland Fire Chief Tom Huntington, Kennewick Fire Chief Chad Michael and many others.

- ENW Officers have been welcomed and considered a normal part of the Law Enforcement community for decades. ENW Officers have been invited to participate in Law Enforcement competitions, not only across Washington but throughout the United States. Officers have been honored to have received awards from the Washington State Police Pistol Association, the NRA Police Division, they have won many Police Championship awards as well as National Police Shooting competitions and have ranked in the Washington State Governor's top 25 Law Enforcement shooters. ENW Officers Men and Women, have represented Washington State Law Enforcement across the entire United States.
- Unlike most Officers, ENW Officers must carry their duty gear on their persons instead of having the luxury of keeping it in patrol vehicles. This includes: Assault Rifles with multiple magazines of ammunition, pistols with multiple magazines of ammunition, Tactical load bearing vests, Gas Masks, Tactical defense sprays, handcuffs, Radios as well as other equipment. ENW Officers may be on foot or in vehicles and are responsible for an area and population equal to or larger than 32% of the cities and towns in Washington State (according to the Office of financial management 2017 publication).
- Many people ask; What is the difference between ENW Officers and Traditional Law Enforcement Officers.
 - Washington Traditional Law Enforcement Officers must take a cognitive test – **Once** to get hired
 - ENW Officers must take a cognitive test – **Every single year.**
 - Washington Traditional Law Enforcement Officers must take a physical agility test – **Once** to get hired
 - ENW Officers must take a physical agility test – **Every single year.**

- Washington Traditional Law Enforcement Officers must take a detailed medical exam – **Once** to get hired
- ENW Officers must take a detailed medical exam – **Every single year.**
- Washington Traditional Law Enforcement Officers must take a pepper spray qualification test – **Once** to get hired
- ENW Officers must take a pepper spray qualification test – **Every single year.**
- Washington Traditional Law Enforcement Officers must take a handgun qualification course – frequency and course **varies by assignment and department.**
- ENW Officers must take a Day and Night handgun qualification course – **Every single year.**
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- Washington Traditional Law Enforcement Officers must take an assault rifle qualification course – frequency and course **varies by assignment and department.**
- ENW Officers must take a Day and Night assault rifle qualification course – **Every single year.**
- Washington Traditional Law Enforcement Officers **do not** take a Tactical Firearms course including donning a gas mask as well as transitioning from one firearm to another in combat conditions.
- ENW Officers **must** take a Tactical Firearms course including donning a gas mask as well as transitioning from one firearm to another in combat conditions – **Every single year.**
- Washington Traditional Law Enforcement Officers must undergo psychological testing – **Once** to get hired.
- ENW Officers must undergo psychological testing – **Every 3 years.**
- Washington Traditional Law Enforcement Officers must complete their Academy – **Once** to get hired
- ENW Officers must complete their Academy – **Every single year.**

ENW Officers must strap on and carry their equipment daily that weighs up to 49 pounds. They must respond to multiple alarms locations throughout the facility. This facility is comparable to a 19 story building. Would you ask the average 65-year old mother, grandmother, grandfather to strap on 49 pounds of gear and respond to the top of a 19 story building without the use of elevators? Far beyond what any young healthy fireman is required to do. Would you ask YOUR family, friends, parents or grandparents to complete this testing process including a Police style Academy – **Every Single Year?** Could you complete this rigorous training year after year until YOU were 65?

The LEOFF system allows its members to retire at the age of 53 instead of 65. Would you prefer to have the people guarding your family, your state, and ultimately the safety of the United States to strap on 49 pound and respond 19 floors – would you prefer them to be 65 or 53?

Please help us to be accepted into the LEOFF system. We implore you – as do the citizens of the United States and the State of Washington. We all deserve to be safe in our homes and communities and we must be profoundly confident in our Law Enforcement Community. Changing from PERS to LEOFF ensures the safety and security for decades to come.

Take from the LEOFF eligibility Employer Data:

LEOFF Plan 2 members have a variety of professions, including fire fighters, emergency medical technicians; law enforcement officers (including sheriffs, university, port and city police officers); and Department of Fish and Wildlife enforcement officers. Employers can include:

- State Agencies
- Higher Education
- Community Colleges
- K-12
- Counties
- County Sub Divisions
- First Class Cities
- Other Cities
- Ports
- Education Service Districts
- Fire Districts
- Public Utility Districts
- Water Districts
- **Energy Northwest**
- Unions

Historical Timeline:

A long time ago Energy Northwest Officers were given the opportunity to choose between PERS and the LEOFF retirement system. Because the Officers were young, most being in their 20's, they did what many of us did in our 20's and made some poor decisions about their future. They were young and healthy and thought they would forever be young. Like many youth, they did not put away for tomorrow what they had today. During the early days, the Officers were not paid very well and had to choose between putting food on the table or setting more aside for retirement. Choosing PERS meant they could take more of their paychecks home while choosing LEOFF meant there would be less food and clothing for their children. So, they are responsible for the injustice that was placed upon them.

To better understand the magnitude, we must take a brief walk through history;

- In **1982** Officers transitioned from a construction phase to an Operational phase with a lengthy Academy being successfully approved by what is now the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission. This Academy included Firearms training, Defensive Tactics, Federal Laws, and State Laws.

- In **1989** The NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) began to emphasize tactical response. Handgun and Rifle training was updated and approved by the NRC and the WSCJTC. Officers moved from a low profile defender to a much higher level capable of repelling attacks of heavily armed dedicated terrorists. The NRC issued a lethal force directive.
- In **1991** the Gulf war happened, and the terrorist threat was elevated. The security was tightened and rifle assignments became mandatory. Defensive positions were identified and fortified. Special SWAT style tactics were implemented and become a regular part of training.
- In **1996** Special classified training is implemented protecting certain components with every member of the force being trained to respond to particular locations within a very short amount of time.
- In **1998** the NRC sends Operational Safeguards Readiness Evaluation Team (OSRE) to test Energy Northwest's Defensive strategy. The testing included running simulated attacks, the demonstration of firearms training, randomly interviewing Officers for technical understanding and tactics, and a review of the use of force policy. ENW's Officers were given the highest rating possible with the OSRE team giving a standing ovation for their tactics. ENW Officers set a new standard by which all plants were to now, to be judged.
- We all remember that fateful day on September 11th 2001 when terrorists attacked our American soil. ENW was locked down and the exterior protection was strengthened with the help of \$11 million of improvements. Officers, feeling great pride in our nation and a duty to protect our state, worked massive amounts of overtime equating to approximately 65,000 hours of total time worked during 2001-2002.
- In **2002** the approval was given to hire more Officers.
- In **2003** the NRC once again updated training requirements with WSCJTC approval. This updated training included new firearms qualification requirements consisting of both pistol and rifle day qualifications, night qualification and a special designed tactical firearms qualification requiring malfunctions and changing from one weapon system to another during a timed course of fire.
- In **2004** ENW volunteers to be tested by the NRC. The focus is the new NRC design Basis Threat for Nuclear Power Plants. This tested the interim plan before all plans and upgrades were in place. ENW Officers passed this graded exercise while the majority of other locations refused to even attempt it.
- In **2005** As part of the ongoing training for the NRC's Design Basis Threat, ENW conducts what is known as limited scope and Force on Force exercises on a regular basis. This requires all Officers to defend and protect the plant while being attacked by a heavily armed well-trained Adversary team of experts both from the local population and a special Adversary team that travels from location to location attacking forces throughout the United States.

Thank you for your time and consideration and allowing us to add your name to the list of supporters.

Sincerely,

Mitchell W. Moffitt

Mitchell Moffitt
LEOFF Retiree
Energy Northwest Officer

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