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**From:** ljthorne@columbiainet.com . <ljthorne@columbiainet.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2022 10:57 AM  
**To:** Office State Actuary, WA  
**Subject:** COLA

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I am a Plan 1TRS/PRS retiree and have been a retired since 1999. I want to express my appreciation for the 3% COLA. I know you aware of the economic changes that we experience daily but a trip to the grocery store or getting gas makes one have a drink of Pendleton Whiskey if they are so inclined.

On a personal note I am recently widowed; received only half of one of my husband's pension and none of the other; my income has been cut in half with my husband's death. So, I sold the pickup and whatever else of value from his shop (I know nothing of welding). My first salary when I began teaching in Oregon was \$5,280...a privy cleaner in Portland made more than I did at that time. When I retired I made just \$50,000. I have no UCOLA or Gain Sharing...I subbed to make up some loss in retirement. I live on four acres of pasture land (some want to buy my place but where would I go?) next to a vineyard which used to be wheat land so, needless to say my taxes have gone up \$500.I also have upkeep on my place which is expensive, such as fertilizer and weed killer for the pasture. I didn't calculate my loss in purchasing power as didn't want to get further depressed. I do lay awake at night worrying. My son-in-law has the LEOFF retirement and is so happy when he gets a nice percentage COLA increase.

I hope more work can be done on securing endorsement for furthering our PPlan 1 COLA. Thank you for your consideration.

Linda J. Thorne

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