

---

**From:** Fred Owyen <fred.owyen@wavecable.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022 10:31 AM  
**To:** Office State Actuary, WA  
**Subject:** Letter to Steve Conway RE RPEC COLAA  
**Attachments:** Letter to Steve Conway.pdf

**CAUTION:**External email.

Thank you!  
Fred Owyen

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Legislature. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

September 13, 2022

The Honorable Steve Conway

Chair

Select Committee on Pension Policy

P.O. Box 40429

Olympia, WA 98504-042

Dear Chair Conway:

I am writing to ask you and the members of the Select Committee on Pension Policy (SCC) to take immediate action to restore a permanent cost of living adjustment (COLA) to Plan 1 retirees.

I deeply appreciate the one-time COLA you secured for Plan 1 retirees like me in the last legislative session. The COLA was helpful and provided temporary relief. That said, I know that the SCPP is committed to ensuring equity in the pension systems. However, one-time COLAs, while deeply appreciated, are short-term fixes that never address the real problem: the long-standing systemic inequity that plagues Plan 1 retirees. Year-after-year the state's oldest retirees, who historically receive the lowest pensions, continue to lose purchasing power.

I have been struggling with the loss of buying power due to inflation and the lack of a COLA from my retirement plan. My wife has recently retired due to health issues and now our health care costs are causing us to struggle financially. A regular COLA would help us tremendously.

Only a permanent COLA guarantees financial, food, and housing security in retirement.

With the pay down of the unfunded liability in the Plan 1 pension plan on the horizon, the Retired Public Employees Council (RPEC) asks that you work this legislative session to codify, in law, a trigger point by which the state will fund a permanent COLA for Plan 1 retirees.

I hope we can count on you to embrace this request and lead the path forward to legislation to finally fix this problem.

Thank you for giving RPEC's request your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Owyen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Fred" and last name "Owyen" clearly distinguishable.

Fred Owyen

PO Box 222

N. Lakewood, WA 98259