

Good afternoon!

My name is Dave Peery and I'm a retired Seattle firefighter with over 42 years of service. I am speaking against this bill because it is bad legislation. It was drafted without the consent, input or knowledge of LEOFF Plan 1 firefighters. Without so much as asking our permission to introduce this bill it is difficult for us to agree with the merger proposal. It is basically a matter of trust.

Having spent many decades of dedicated service to our respective communities I know that we active and retired LEOFF 1 brothers have long since earned the right to be consulted when legislation affecting our pensions and medical benefits is being drafted. When we are not even informed that such legislation is being proposed we have little trust that our interests are being adequately represented.

With no appreciable representation within the proposed new Board of Trustees we are further disinclined to believe that the interests of our members are protected despite verbal assurances otherwise.

If you read the State Actuary's report you will note that the amount of our surplus is currently in the neighborhood of one billion dollars. In point of fact, both Plan I and Plan II LEOFF pension systems are more than fully funded. There is no reason for this merger. There is ample reason to slow this process down and allow specific issues and questions to be "hashed out" before enacting legislation that is badly designed or poorly understood.

In the State Actuary's report there were several estimates of future pension earnings expectations. While there are variations in potential outcomes, it should be noted that the current "surplus" in Plan 1 is about one billion dollars. There is a potential for even larger surpluses in the future should the actuaries optimistic scenarios prove correct. Senate Bill 6563 promises only 75 million in savings to the State. With a potential surplus in the LEOFF I system that could reach several billion dollars, "buying" that future surplus for 75 million appears to be a very good bargain for LEOFF 2 and a very bad one for the State when the State is the proper owner of any LEOFF I surplus under current law.

Please consider NOT passing this bad bill.

Thank you.

Dave Peery

Retired Seattle Firefighter