

Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 4:50:17 PM
Subject: RE: "Hateful Emails and Calls"

Honorable Representatives and staff,

We were recently provided a copy of an email from Bud Sizemore entitled "Help for the hateful HB 2097-LEOFF 1 /LEOFF 2 merger calls and emails". We felt it was imperative that we join Mr. Sizemore in decrying inappropriate or hateful correspondence.

We regret that Bud Sizemore found it necessary to apologize. It should have never come to that. However it is appropriate that he makes that apology on behalf of the Washington Council of Fire Fighters. It was obviously wrong for them to participate in bringing forward HB 2097 without informing the LEOFF 1 community of their efforts. It was shameful that they would encourage you to support a bill by telling you it had LEOFF 1 approval and concurrence when they were well aware it did not.

We also regret that any LEOFF 1 member would make any personal or hateful remarks to you or your staff. It is however appropriate that they communicate to you their concerns about the legislation and their sense of betrayal by our brothers and sisters. Unfortunately most of the individuals communicating with you are just ordinary citizens and are not as sophisticated in political rhetoric as the professional lobbyists in the employee of the labor organizations. Many of them are genuinely frightened. To the extent we can, we would extend the apologies of the LEOFF 1 community for any inappropriate comments.

The immediate goal of the LEOFF 1 community is to encourage the legislature not to pass HB 2097 but rather to put it over for further study in the interim. There are four principal reasons for this request.

- The issue is very complex. LEOFF 1 is comprised of over 40 years of legislation and litigation. The two pension systems differ significantly. Any merger needs to be very carefully crafted with consideration of the implications and impacts that would occur.
- The bill was dropped without any actuarial report or fiscal statement. Somehow this bill is supposed to generate an extra \$15 million dollars but no one has yet been able to explain how or even if that would happen. Obviously any actuarial statement would require close examination and serious consideration.
- If the bill does not actually produce the extra \$15 million then it is not a budget bill but is, rather, a pension bill. As such it should go through the Select Committee on Pension Policy first.
- The prospect of the merger raises significant legal and constitutional issues. A legal opinion needs to be completed to insure the bill meets legal standards and that the state will be unlikely to face litigation.

On Friday, April 15th in a meeting with Kelly Fox, Craig Soucy and Bud Sizemore, Kelly Fox agreed that putting this bill over for study during the interim was their preferred option.

I am convinced that many of Mr. Sizemore's recent assertions as to HB 2097 facts are incomplete and inaccurate. I am sure that given the unfortunate assertions that the LEOFF 1 community supported this bill it is difficult to take his claims at face value. The true fact is that we do not yet have hard and verifiable facts about this bill. That is why we are asking to slow down this process so that it can be studied.

I can assure you that given the opportunity our organizations will work closely and effectively with both the Washington Council of Fire Fighters and WACOPS to find some common ground in this matter.

We want to thank you for your service in the legislature. We know it is a difficult job and particularly so given the current budget challenges and conflicting interests.

Yours truly,

Jerry Taylor, President
Seattle Police Retired Officers Association

Richard Warbrouck, President
Retired Fire Fighters of Washington