State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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December 8, 2006

Mr. Steve Nelson, Executive Director
Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' (LEOFF)
Plan 2 Retirement Board
2100 Evergreen Park Drive SW, Suite 180
Olympia, WA 98504-0918

RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 2890

Dear Mr. Nelson:

This is to show my support for House Bill (HB) 2890 and SB 6585 (allowing Department of Fish and Wildlife enforcement officers to transfer service credit).

In 2003, legislation was passed (HB 1205) that required WDFW officers who were members of PERS Plan 2 or Plan 3 on or before January 1, 2003, and who were employed on July 27, 2003, to become a member of LEOFF Plan 2, effective July 27, 2003. However, service earned prior to July 27, 2003, remained in PERS, and the officer became a dual member. The bill also required new employees hired on or after July 27, 2003, to enter LEOFF Plan 2 membership. The bill specifically excluded fish and wildlife officers who were members of PERS Plan 1 from LEOFF Plan 2 membership and required them to continue to be reported in PERS Plan 1. HB 2890 and SB 6585 remedy these inequities.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) was pleased to see the LEOFF Board put forward in the 2006 legislative session HB 2890 and SB 6585. Of the five bills since 1993 that allowed law enforcement officers or fire fighters to transfer prior service credit into the LEOFF Plan 2 retirement system, WDFW officers are the only subgroup whose transfer of prior service credit has not been allowed.

Thank you for all of the hard work you and the Board have done on HB 2890 and SB 6585. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Chief Bruce Bjork at 902-2373.

Sincerely,

Jeff P. Koenings, Ph.D.
Director

Enclosure

Z-0897.2

HOUSE BILL 2890

State of Washington **59th Legislature** **2006 Regular Session**

By Representatives Simpson, Curtis and Blake; by request of LEOFF Plan 2 Retirement Board

Read first time 01/16/2006. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing department of fish and wildlife
2 enforcement officers to transfer service credit; and adding a new
3 section to chapter 41.26 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.26 RCW
6 to read as follows:
7 (1) A member of plan 2 who was a member of the public employees'
8 retirement system plan 2 while employed as an enforcement officer for
9 the department of fish and wildlife has the option to make an election
10 no later than June 30, 2011, filed in writing with the department of
11 retirement systems, to transfer service credit previously earned as an
12 enforcement officer in the public employees' retirement system plan 2
13 to the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system
14 plan 2. Service credit that a member elects to transfer from the
15 public employees' retirement system to the law enforcement officers'
16 and fire fighters' retirement system under this section shall be
17 transferred no earlier than June 30, 2011, and only after the member
18 completes payment as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2)(a) A member who elects to transfer service credit under subsection (1) of this section shall make the payments required by this subsection prior to having service credit earned as an enforcement officer with the department of fish and wildlife under the public employees' retirement system plan 2 transferred to the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 2.

(b) A member who elects to transfer service credit under this subsection shall pay, for the applicable period of service, the difference between the contributions the employee paid to the public employees' retirement system plan 2 and the contributions that would have been paid by the employee had the employee been a member of the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 2, plus interest on this difference as determined by the director. This payment must be made no later than June 30, 2011, and must be made prior to retirement.

(c) No later than June 30, 2012, the department of fish and wildlife shall pay an amount sufficient to ensure that the contribution level to the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system will not increase due to this transfer.

(d) Upon completion of the payment required in (b) of this subsection, the department shall transfer from the public employees' retirement system to the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 2: (i) All of the employee's applicable accumulated contributions plus interest and all of the applicable employer contributions plus interest; and (ii) all applicable months of service, as defined in RCW 41.26.030(14)(b), credited to the employee under this chapter for service as an enforcement officer with the department of fish and wildlife as though that service was rendered as a member of the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system plan 2.

(e) Upon transfer of service credit, contributions, and interest under this subsection, the employee is permanently excluded from membership in the public employees' retirement system for all service related to time served as an enforcement officer with the department of fish and wildlife under the public employees' retirement system plan 2.

--- **END** ---