I am writing today to ask for your support of HB 2875.

As a PERS retiree, I understand the importance of protecting the hard-earned benefits of PERS members. HB 2875 would do this in two ways.

First, this bill would allow retirees to more quickly reinstate Tax Remedy Payments if they are unable to confirm their Oregon residency by the December 31st deadline. There are a number of reasons why retirees may miss this deadline, from major life events to a severe illness. As it stands right now, if the self-certification is filed late, retirees will miss out on the tax remedy for an entire year. As most retirees are on a fixed budget, this can have a huge impact on their monthly income. This bill would give retirees the ability to redeem these payments sooner, rather than missing out on them until the next year.

Second, this bill will protect part-time employees working to qualify for PERS benefits. As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on people’s ability to work due to closures and work hours being unavailable in 2020. Because of this, many were unable to achieve the 600 hours per year threshold needed in 2020 through no fault of their own. This bill would restore PERS membership and any retirement credit lost in 2020 if the person performs 600 hours or more of service in calendar year 2021.

I respectfully ask that you support HB 2875. Thank you for your consideration and your leadership during this time.