



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NOAA MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS  
Marine Operations Center  
2002 SE Marine Science Drive  
Newport, Oregon 97365

20 JUL 2015

The Honorable Richard Devlin  
Senate  
State of Oregon  
Salem, OR

Dear Senator Devlin,

We are writing in the support of Dr. James Gaudino for changing the verbiage of Oregon law that only allows former members of the “armed forces” to be allowed to pay into the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). As you are aware, there are seven federal uniformed services in which 5 out of the 7 are considered armed forces while the remaining two are the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) and the NOAA Commissioned Corps of Officers (NOAA Corps). The roots of our history and the importance of our work date back more than 200 years, but we seem to be forgotten in state and federal legislatures when laws are written.

We respectfully ask for your consideration in changing the law in the State of Oregon to allow former USPHS and NOAA Corps officers to gain credit for the time that they have served while on active duty. The State of Oregon is home to the NOAA Marine Operations Center – Pacific Fleet (MOC-P). MOC-P is headquartered in Newport, OR, and it has active duty USPHS and NOAA Corps officers stationed here. It is safe to assume as officers rotate in and out of Newport over the next two to four decades that there will be officers that decide to separate/retire and remain residents of Oregon. It is also safe to assume that they might apply for and be hired as state employees that would also benefit to paying into the OPERS to gain credit for their time served on active duty in the “uniformed services.”

We feel that it is appropriate that our two services be afforded the same opportunities that are afforded to members of the military services. We hope that you and your colleagues feel the same.

Sincerely,

Captain Jane Powers, USPHS  
Director, Health Services  
NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

Sincerely,

Commander Joe C. Bishop, NOAA  
Executive Officer  
NOAA Marine Operations Center-Pacific

