



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Affiliated with the International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO

December 14, 2016

Senator Jon Tester
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Tester,

I write to thank you for your work on drafting the Fair Retire Act, which I understand you will be introducing during the next session of the Senate. This is a very important piece of legislation to many of our members and those we represent who work in federal land management agencies, who fall under special federal retirement due to the nature of the work they perform, such as wildland firefighters and law enforcement agents, and other first responders. This legislation will fix a long-standing problem these dedicated first responder civil servants have had which has caused them to be moved from their retirement system to the standard federal retirement system should they incur an injury in the performance of their duties resulting in their inability to continue on in their position. In many cases, the additional funds the employee has paid into their special retirement system is not credited, nor returned to them, when they are moved to the standard federal employee retirement system (FERS) as a result of their injuries. Additionally, many of these employees are forced to have to work up to an additional 10 years (30 years vs. 20 years) to be eligible for their full retirement. Your legislation will address these inequities and fix the problems when these employees can no longer perform the duties of their position as a result of injuries incurred on the job.

I want you to know that the National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) fully supports the Fair Retire Act which you have authored and are sponsoring. Again, we thank you for your continued tireless dedication to federal employees in general, and in particular to those first responders we represent who will not be penalized for being injured on the job as a result of the legislation you will offer next session.

Sincerely,

William R. Dougan
National President