



May 27, 188

Good morning, Chair Monroe Moreno, Vice-Chair Backus and Committee.

My name for the record is Terri Laird. I am the Executive Director of RPEN, the Retired Public Employees of Nevada, a non-profit non-partisan organization founded nearly 50 years ago. We have thousands of members in 17 chapters statewide.

We were created to protect the pension and healthcare benefits earned by all public employees and in the interest of AB 188, we believe retiree healthcare benefits taken from state workers hired after January 1, 2012 should be restored as AB 188 looks to do. The loss of those benefits most definitely may have deterred some qualified people from seeking employment at the state, which as you may recall was something legislators were made aware of at the 82nd session as they looked to improve wages and benefits for this group then. So, this is still a good reason to support AB 188.

There are also other improvements included in this bill as mentioned in other comments expressed here today that address our thoughts relating to the fiscal notes attached to the bill, further qualifying our support of AB 188, and as such, we ask for your support as well.

Terri Laird, RPEN Executive Director