



August 23, 2010

Ron Richard
P.O. Box 1725
Joplin, MO. 64802

Dear Representative Richard,

The State Highway and Transportation Employees Association of Missouri was organized in 1950 as a service organization to promote the general welfare of all employees, encourage the highest standards of employee conduct, and render the most effective service to the people of Missouri. As one of the chapter presidents of **T.E.A.M.** I represent the MoDOT employees, families and friends of my district. As an association of almost 3000 members and their families, I hope you can appreciate our interest in the Nov.2nd election. We as a group have decided that it is time to get actively involved in the political process instead of being passively upset. As our representative, or prospective representative we would like to know your position on the following questions:

- **HB1229:** With the rising cost of living as future retiree's, it is our goal as **T.E.A.M.** to make every attempt to save and prepare for a more comfortable future and secured retirement. Sadly, matching funds for our Deferred Comp were cut from the budget this year and are no longer available to state employees. What is your plan to help us save for our retirement and return this benefit that has been on Missouri statutes since 1998?
- Since 2008 there have not been any raises for state employees, even though according to the Consumer Price Index, there has been a 6.2% cost of living increase since then. We are very cognizant of the financial problems that the state is facing; however we are also very cognizant of the rising cost of: gas, utilities, food, and our medical premiums, which will go up again this coming year. We would like to know what your plans are to secure some financial measures that will help restore cost of living raises for state employees.
- Tragically, MPERS our retirement system is only about 48% funded. This is very disturbing to our members who have poured their hard work and lives into a system that is struggling to get its footing. Most MoDOT employees make less than outside workers doing equivalent jobs because of our retirement plan. Retirement promises were made to all of us when we accepted employment with MoDOT and we are asking what you will do to make sure those promises are kept to the existing employees and help fix a system that will not work for future employees?

We are just regular hard working people, who come to work whether it's 110 degrees or -10 degrees. We work 24 hour shifts in emergencies and extreme weather events; we give up our holidays and family events to keep this great state moving. In the past year we have been asked to forego raises, holidays, Deferred Comp matching funds, overtime (which is now paid in flex time to the benefit of MoDOT), and we have had our credit unions and its employees cut out from under us. We are not unreasonable people, but we are struggling to hold on.

As our representative or future representative, we are looking to you for answers and help. We will be meeting in Jefferson City again in October to discuss your responses before the election. We anxiously await your reply.

Respectfully,

Doris Harper Powell
District 7 Chapter President

State Highway and Transportation Employees Association of Missouri
Chapter 7 President – Doris (Dee Dee) Powell
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