



Taxpayers United of America

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February 6, 2012

Sen. Cliff Hite
77 Sout High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

re: Release of Public Employee Pension Information and Pension Reform

Dear Sen. Cliff Hite,

I am Vice President of Taxpayers United of America (TUA), one of the largest taxpayer organizations in the U.S.

In the past year, we of TUA have travelled to many states to research and publicize public employee pensions. We have often found that government pensions are higher than private sector salaries! In response to our FOIA requests, we have generally received the information requested, including the “Top 100” government salaries and the “Top 100” government pensions.

Some states readily recognize individual pension payouts as public information, since they are paid for with taxpayer dollars. They readily make them available for public view. Sadly, this is not the case in Ohio.

The 129th General Assembly and Governor Kasich have taken some bold steps in improving Ohio’s growth and financial outlook, but immediate attention is needed in improving transparency by releasing pension information. As a legislator, you have the power to shine the light on pensions.

I also call on you to take immediate steps to implement meaningful pension reform that includes ending defined benefit pension systems for new hires, increasing employee contributions to their pensions by 10%, and increasing employee and retiree portion of healthcare premiums to 50%.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would have your staff contact me, so we can discuss the legislation necessary to accomplish these critical changes.

Thank you,

Christina Tobin, Vice President