

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Labor and Housing Committees, my name is Mike McGonigle, I live in Hampden, and I'm a State of Maine retiree and a member of MSEA.

Please fund a full, cumulative cost-of-living adjustment in the biennial budget. Inflation has increased substantially in the last few years, and MePERS retirees have never been made whole after the 2011 cuts.

My recent monthly bill from Versant Power's "standard offer" for electricity supply has increased from \$0.11684 to \$0.16438. This is a 33.8098% difference now and going forward for me and other MSEA and MePERS retirees. It is a hardship for myself and surely for other MSEA retirees.

This is just one example of how retirees with a fixed income are struggling with rising costs. Please keep this in mind when working on the budget and take steps to help MePERS retirees keep up with these increased costs by fully funding a cumulative COLA.

Thank you for your work behalf MSEA Retirees.

Mike McGonigle, Electronic Signature 02/08/2023
Hampden, ME