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March 12, 2020

Honorable Members of the Missouri General Assembly,

The Missouri Local Government Employees Retirement System has decided to cancel our annual Advocacy Day on March 18<sup>th</sup> in light of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, and the House and Senate leadership's request to limit activity in the capitol building. While we regret that our members will not have an opportunity to visit with their elected officials next week, we feel confident that this is the right decision for our members and retirees as well as you and your staff. We appreciate your understanding.

Perhaps now more than ever, we are reminded of the importance of the work our members do. Missouri LAGERS represents nearly 70,000 working and retired local government employees including local health department workers, other public health and long-term care providers, emergency responders, as well as countless other local government workers from public administrators all the way down to local sanitation workers– these are the men and women on the frontlines, working to ensure that every community in our state is a safe, healthy, and desirable place to live.

We owe it to each of our members to not let this moment pass us by. While we are collectively focused on responding to today's challenges, we want to also make sure we share how important Missouri LAGERS is to our employers, members, retirees, and the taxpayers of Missouri. For more than 50 years, Missouri LAGERS has been helping local employers attract and retain the best and brightest public employees into service in our local communities. Once an employer finds that great public servant, LAGERS is a tool to help keep them in service to their communities long-term. LAGERS is also the catalyst that helps our members transition, after a career in public service, to a secure, dignified retirement, where they will spend their retirement paychecks right back into the communities in which they were earned - providing an additional economic benefit to our local economies.

We appreciate your continued support of the Missouri LAGERS Retirement System as well all of the work our members carry out every day. We believe that having great communities starts with great partnerships- and we value our partnership with you. Please find attached some of the material we were planning to share with you during our visit. Do not hesitate to reach out if we can ever be of assistance!

In solidarity,

Robert L. Wifson

Robert L. Wilson, CEBS Executive Director Missouri LAGERS

Elabeth althoff

Elizabeth Althoff Legislative & Communications Coordinator Missouri LAGERS