

Ed Bryant

U.S. SENATE

July 19, 2006

Dear Oak Ridge Retirees,

Last month I was able to sit down with some of the leadership of the Coalition of Oak Ridge Retired Employees while I was in Knoxville and learn more about your issues including the problems you have with your cost of living adjustment, or rather, the lack thereof.

As someone who worked with Senator Fred Thompson to address the shortcomings of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program while I served in Congress, I understand how important it is to make sure that federal employees, especially those who are exposed to risks, are treated with the respect that they have earned.

Oak Ridge was born of the war effort sixty years ago, and it remains part of our national security and safety effort even though it has grown to contribute to many other areas of science, research, and real-world applications.

Although I wish I could be with all of you today, I want you to know that after meeting with CORRE's legislative representatives, **I understand the basic unfairness of the COLA issue and look forward to being able to help rectify this situation with the Department of Energy and its contractors if elected to the U.S. Senate.** It is my understanding that the quickest and best solution can be done administratively within the Department of Energy. I will lend my full support to this effort, but I understand that legislative solutions may be necessary.

Last week during a debate televised on WBIR-TV in Knoxville, the Republican candidates for U.S. Senate were all asked about this particular issue. I was proud but surprised to be the only one to unequivocally state my clear support for you in that public venue, but I hope that the other candidates will follow my lead in the near future.

Thank you for this opportunity, and I look forward to being able to meet with more Oak Ridge retirees soon.

Sincerely,



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