



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

PO Box 40931 • Olympia, WA 98504-0931 • (360) 664-7111 • 800-547-6657 • www.drs.wa.gov

June 30, 2016

Dear Employer Partners,

Here at DRS our team members continually look for innovative, cost-effective ways to improve your interactions with us. We also know one of your goals is to better serve the employees in your organization. To that end, I'm excited to share some important news about why we're modernizing our current technology, and how it will transform the way you submit your data to us.

Here are some of the benefits you'll experience once the new technology rolls out:

- A portal that presents all data in one easy-to-navigate location
- The ability to edit and validate employment data before submission—this increases the accuracy of information you provide to us, reduces the time required to process data and reduces corrections
- Enhanced on-demand tools for self-auditing—reporting the right positions in the right plans increases accuracy

Beginning July 2017, we're replacing the Employer Information System (EIS) with a new Employer Reporting Application (ERA). While the technology used to build and maintain EIS was the best for its time, it can no longer keep pace with increasingly complex business requirements crucial to the administration of the state's public pension systems. This aging architecture has also delayed enhancements to your user experience. After we implement ERA, the retirement system transactions between us will be timelier, more accurate and easier to process.

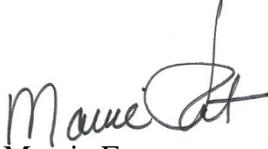
As the project progresses, we will limit system impacts by detailing any required data changes and sharing them with you in an upcoming July Employer Notice. This allows your organization a year to make data changes before the beginning of the ERA rollout in July 2017. Completion of the rollout is June 2018.

One of the most important ways we can connect with you about the ERA rollout is to ask what you need from us to feel your organization is positioned for success and completely satisfied with the ERA implementation. We will be in frequent touch as we provide the support you need to make this important transition as easy as possible. In July, we will begin recruiting ERA Advisors and Early Adopters who will be involved in development and testing. You can learn

about the recruitment and ongoing project developments on the ERA website where you can also subscribe for updates.

We want you to feel involved and informed every step of the way. If you have any questions or comments about ERA, please contact Employer Support Services at employersupport@drs.wa.gov or 360-664-7200, option 2, or 800-547-6657, option 6, option 2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcie Frost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Marcie Frost
Director