



TOWN OF RED RIVER

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Red River, NM 87558

Richard J. Berry, Mayor
City of Albuquerque
P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Dear Mayor Berry,

As Mayor of Red River, I am writing in support of an exemption for law enforcement retirees from the Return to Work Law. Making the changes necessary that would allow retired police officers not have to suspend the pension they have earned in order to continue serving the public is of critical importance to my municipality. This legislation is critical because it would assist with filling funded vacant positions, recruitment and retaining valuable experience and institutional knowledge in the development of this highly skilled work force.

In the instance of Red River, we do not have the funding to pay higher salaries to compete with other agencies for qualified personnel. By allowing retired officers to rehire, it would enable us to tap into a larger pool of applicants that may hire for less money due to already having an income from their pension and their willingness to work in a more rural setting. It also would give us applicants that have the much-needed experience. Men and women who have worked long enough to retire have already shown a love of the people of New Mexico and a desire to work for the betterment of communities. Excluding those people from rehiring deprives communities of top-notch potential employees.

A reasonable and limited return to work provision would alleviate the shortages that our local governments are experiencing in law enforcement.

Respectfully,

Linda Calhoun

Linda Calhoun, Mayor
Town of Red River