



March 11, 2026

Dear PERA Board of Trustees,

I am writing to you regarding your opportunity to support SF 3828 / HF 3512 – Maple Plain Fire Relief Association bill.

The firefighters came to the City asking for our help to modify the current procedures for terminating participation in the PERA Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan, specifically, the procedure for distributing the surplus. This request came directly from them, a unified body at the time the vote was taken. I am advocating on their behalf.

We are not asking for any additional state funding. Every firefighter rightfully earned these funds through their courageous service. They are our hometown heroes, answering the call 24/7, often sacrificing family time, career opportunities, and personal wellbeing to protect our community.

We as a city made the hard decision to close our fire department. Each firefighter received a letter of termination. This was not their choice; it was a decision made for them. They do not have the option to stay in PERA until they are fifty.

I implore you to consider this one-time request for the Maple Plain Fire Department to allocate the surplus funds in a manner that fairly reflects what these firefighters rightfully earned and ninety percent of them are asking for.

This legislation honors their dedicated service, respects local decision-making, and provides equity for every member who committed years of their life to protecting and serving our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Together, we are better!

Julie M. Maas-Kusske
Mayor of Maple Plain