January 15, 2019

Governor JB Pritzker
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL  62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

Pursuant to Public Act 88-593, as amended, at a meeting held January 15, 2019, the Board of Trustees of the State Employees’ Retirement System (SERS) certified an FY 2020 State contribution rate of 52.150% of projected payroll, or $2,385,271,000. The FY 2020 certification includes $2,291,249,000 for the State contribution to SERS and $94,022,000 for debt service on the 2003 pension obligation bonds. Of the $2,291,249,000 for the State contribution to SERS, $630,005,000 is for the employer’s portion of the expected FY 2020 normal cost. The remaining $1,661,244,000 is due to the unfunded liabilities.

Consistent with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 67, the SERS Board of Trustees adopted a funding policy, or Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC) policy in 2015. The ADC provides for annual contributions that are equal to the annual normal cost of benefits earned plus amortization of the unfunded actuarial liability over a 25-year period as a level percent of payroll. The remaining amortization period is 22 years. The FY 2020 ADC is $2,834,360,456, or $543.1 million higher than the amount calculated under the statutory funding plan.

The ADC is used in financial reporting but will not affect the certified employer contributions to SERS, which will still be certified by the Board pursuant to the statutory funding plan.

Attached is the FY 2018 actuarial valuation along with the FY 2020 certification letter prepared by the System’s actuaries. The actuarial valuation, membership data used in the valuation, and all calculations were reviewed by the State Actuary.

Very truly yours,

Timothy Blair
Executive Secretary

cc:  Governor JB Pritzker, Chicago Office
     Susana A. Mendoza, Comptroller
     Alexis Sturm, Director, Governor’s Office of Management & Budget
     Marc Staley, Governor’s Office of Management & Budget
     Bob Steere, Governor’s Office of Management & Budget
     Ascha Nickell, Governor’s Office of Management & Budget
     John Hollman, Acting House Clerk
     Brad Bolin, Assistant House Clerk.
Tim Anderson, Senate Clerk
Clayton Klenke, Director, Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability
Dan Hankiewicz, Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability
Julie Bae, Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability
Senate President John Cullerton
Senate Republican Leader Bill Brady
Speaker of the House Michael Madigan
Republican Leader Jim Durkin
Jessica Basham, Speaker's Office
Andrew Freiheit, House Republican Staff
Kristin Richards, Senate President’s Office
Phil Draves, Senate Republican Staff
Becky Locker, Senate President’s Office
Ozie Goodwin, Senate President’s Office
Noe Chaimongkol, Senate President’s Office
Mark Jarmer, House Democratic Staff
Mike Mahoney, House Republican Staff
Joe Sculley, House Republican Staff
Erik Dillman, Senate Republican Staff
Nick McNeely, Senate Republican Staff
Rich Rockwood, Senate Republican Staff
Joe Miller, House Democratic Staff