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Redarding: SCR 7 and The Federal REAL ID ACT of February 2023

I believe that the Federal REAL ID Act which ended the issue of Civilian Retiree Identification Cards, allowing retired civilian DOD personnel convenient access to a host of facilities, including parks, museums, and historical sites on Wright Patterson Air Forced Base, is a dis-service to the tens of thousands of fedreal retirees who dedicated their careers and efforts in the service of our nation. It is my hope that this act will be reversed to show that retired DOD civilian efforts are acknowledged and appreciated at the highest levels of our government.

I served as a DOD civilian for 35 years, beginning as a flight test enginner with the 4950th Test Wing. My duties included mission planning for the Advanced Range Instrumention Aircraft (ARIA) and as ARIA Mission Commander, deploying worldwide in support of our nations space and missile development programs.

Following my assignment with the 4950th Test Wing, I transitioned to the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Sensors Directorate where I served for 22 years doing research and development of microelectronics and phased arrays for space applications. These efforts culminated in the design, development, manufacture, and deployment of phased array for space applications that are 5X lighter, and 10X lower cost than current phased arrays. The Modular RF Tile phased array was launch to and deployed from the International Space Station in 2020.

I then transitioned to the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate of AFRL where I contiunued research in the area of microelectronics for attritable systems and finally ended my carreer working Title III efforts, specifically maximizing efforts during the COVID emergency where our office in AFRL ManTech executed over \$1B in efforts in rapid and record time in response to the pandemic.

After retiring in January 2024, I took time off and eventually applied for and was accepted to the AFRL Emeritus Corps of Engineers. In my role as an emeritus engineer, I have volunteered to support the AFRL Title III Executive Agent as well as mentor junior engineers within the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate of AFRL.

I have been working since November of last year to complete the process to begin volunteer efforts as an emeritus engineer and expect to officially begin on 4 March 2025. One of the significant difficulties I have encountered in this process is base access. Not having a Civilian Retiree ID Card has been an impediment and has slowed the overall on-boarding process. Five months to begin volunteering is too long.

I join Robert Beach and I'm sure thousands of other retirees in support for your efforts to repeal the REAL ID Act and to once again provide Civilian Retiree ID Cards to qualifying Department of Defense retirees.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lesniak