



January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

Senator Matt D. Klein (DFL – District 53)  
Vice Chair, Minnesota Senate Committee on Taxes

Dear Senator Klein,

I am writing to you as the President of the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA). AFSA represents some 17,300 U.S. Foreign Service personnel serving overseas and in the United States from six U.S. Government agencies, including nearly 4,000 retirees. We are both a professional association and the official collective bargaining representative for members of the U.S. Foreign Service. Our members include Foreign Service employees from the Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Foreign Commercial Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, the U.S. Agency for Global Media, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

In this context, I am writing to respectfully request that the Minnesota Senate Committee on Taxes support for Senate File 211 ([SF 211](#)), sponsored by Senator Matt Klein, which would amend [Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 290.0132](#) to extend tax exemptions on Foreign Service retirement income in line with that already being granted to military retirees.

SF 211 would rectify one of the most significant financial burdens commonly cited by members of the Foreign Service upon retirement: taxation of their pensions.

In an ongoing effort to increase U.S. Foreign Service parity with the U.S. military on matters of taxation, and other benefits, the inclusion of retired Foreign Service members under the provisions of SF 211 will be an appropriate and welcome addition. Service in the United States Foreign Service is indeed analogous to service in the United States military; a key difference being that most of one's career in the Foreign Service takes place overseas. With that, U.S. Foreign Service members are often assigned to dangerous and difficult overseas assignments, including war zones, in support of U.S. national security.

This common-sense legislative update will rightfully enable retired members of the Foreign Service – diplomats, international development experts, and other patriotic professionals who protect the national security of the United States – to receive similar benefits with retired members of the U.S. military.

In lieu of retiring abroad or elsewhere in the United States, this change would also attract more former members of the Foreign Service to retire in Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration to support SF 211 during the 2025 legislative session.

Sincerely,

Tom Yazdgerdi  
President

Cc: Members of the Minnesota Senate Committee on Taxes

Senator Ann H. Rest (Chair - DFL)

Senator Bill Weber (Chair - R)

Senator Steve Drazkowski (Vice Chair - R)

Senator D. Scott Dibble

Senator Calvin K. Bahr

Senator Grant Hauschild

Senator Jeremy R. Miller

Senator Carla J. Nelson

Senator Aric Putnam