



OREGON STATE FRATERNAL ORDER of POLICE

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Rod Edwards
President

May 13th, 2013

Consumer and Small Business Protection Sub Committee,

Senators,

For those of you that do not know about the Fraternal Order of Police. My Organization represents Police Officers throughout the State of Oregon. The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) is the largest Police Association in the Nation with over 328,000 members. The Oregon State Lodge Represents 5 Local Lodges with around 400 Officers currently as Active Members and this number is growing fast. One of the main purposes of the FOP is to fight to protect the rights of Public Safety Officers.

The Oregon State Fraternal Order of Police would like to ask for your support of House Bill 2418, which is being put in front of your committee on May 15th, 2013. HB 2418 is a public safety bill that will clarify who can be excluded from collective bargaining rights as a "supervisor."

The current law allows employers to exclude police sergeants and low-ranking firefighters from collective bargaining. HB 2418 will clarify the law to make sure that only public safety employees with the ability to impose economic discipline can be excluded from bargaining. I am sure you will hear that sergeants and low ranking firefighters (Capt, Lt's) do not possess this ability within the majority of the agencies.

On a daily basis, the sergeants perform the same duties as do our police officers. Our sergeants respond to calls, issue traffic tickets, make arrests, investigate crimes, and put their safety at risk every day they go to work. Sergeants and Officers work side by side in agencies around the state and should be given the same rights as officers. Many agencies allow their sergeants to be members of a collective bargaining unit, but not all.

HB 2418 would allow these employees the opportunity to join a collective bargaining unit if the Employment Relations Board determines they are eligible. HB 2418 would bring Oregon more in line with the practices in other states, where sergeants are routinely members of collective bargaining units.

We ask you, as State Senators, to support HB 2418 on our behalf. I would also like to offer my assistance in any matters that you may be asked to support concerning public safety.

Sincerely,

Rod Edwards

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President