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# **OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 2418**

**In writing before the House Business and Labor Committee / February 22, 2013**

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Chair Doherty and members of the House Business and Labor Committee:

The Oregon State Sheriffs' Association is comprised of Oregon's 36 elected county sheriffs. Sheriffs take seriously their charge to be "conservators of the peace." Their role in public safety is broad, including routine patrol, investigating crime, search and rescue, marine patrol, jails, community corrections, court security, civil services and the issuance of concealed handgun licenses.

Oregon sheriffs believe HB 2418 establishes an unreasonably high standard of "authority to impose economic discipline" as the new threshold for determining whether a person in a law enforcement leadership position is a "supervisory employee." The new language, when taken with the remaining language on lines 6-10 of page four, could force some sheriffs to shift a historically successful command structure to comply with the new standard. Complying with this bill could be very costly to sheriffs regardless of the size of the office.

The practical problem HB2418 will create is mixing traditionally recognized supervisory employees into a bargaining unit where they could potentially supervise someone who also holds a leadership position in the union which could create significant issues regarding lines of authority and a clear command structure.

HB2418 appears to be a solution in search of a problem. Oregon sheriffs urge the committee to keep HB2418 in committee and not move the bill forward to the full House of Representatives. Thank you.

**Oregon State Sheriffs' Association**

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