



Mar. 16, 2015

Honorable Brian Boquist, Chair
Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Or 97301

RE: SB 87 Veterans hiring preference for public employers

Dear Chair Boquist and Members of the Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee:

We are writing you today to express the City of Beaverton's support of Senate Bill 87. The Beaverton Police Department is comprised of dedicated and service-oriented veterans and non-veterans. SB 87 will help provide clarity and guidance in applying Oregon's Veterans' Preference law, and will help ensure all members of our team are treated fairly.

Today, the city faces uncertainty and vulnerability when trying to apply veterans' preference. The current law is ambiguous with regard to the extent in which veterans' preference must be applied to internal assignment and transfer processes. SB 87 provides clarity in applying veterans' preference while offering guidelines for public employers to better follow Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries expectations of hiring processes.

Misapplying veterans' preference carries both legal risk and risk of sowing discontent through inequity amongst a team that must work closely together to effectively serve and protect the Beaverton community. SB 87 will assist in applying veterans' preference correctly, consistently, and fairly.

I urge you to move SB 87 forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Spalding".

Geoff Spalding
Police Chief

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Kirby".

Bill Kirby
City Attorney