



May. 18, 2015

Honorable John Lively, Chair  
House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Or 97301

**RE: SB 87A, Veterans' hiring preference for public employers**

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

The City of Beaverton supports Senate Bill 87A. SB 87A will 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 veterans' preference applies to internal assignments and transfers. SB 87A clarifies both the kinds of employment decisions that require veterans' preference and how to apply the preference when required.

The Beaverton Police Department is comprised of dedicated and service-oriented veterans and non-veterans. Misapplying veterans' preference carries both legal risk and risk of sowing discontent among a team that must work closely together to effectively serve and protect the Beaverton community. SB 87A provides a fair and consistent path to applying veterans' preference.

I urge you to move SB 87A 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