



May 18, 2015

Senate Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness  
Senator Brian Boquist, Chair  
900 Court Street, NE  
Hearing Room B  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Boquist and Members of the Committee:

Deschutes County supports SB 87, which modifies veterans' preference for public employment. The proposed changes clarify how to apply veterans' preference and create a more comprehensive approach to veterans' preference.

Although well-intentioned, the current veterans' preference laws are confusing and difficult to implement. At Deschutes County, we find that both hiring supervisors and applicants who are veterans are confused and frustrated by the current laws.

SB 87 improves veterans' preference laws by offering the following:

- Provides a more meaningful and consistent hiring process for veterans applying for public employment.
- Establishes methods that are easier to follow and more consistent in applying veterans' preference.
- Creates a mechanism for more meaningful interviews that better match veterans with positions they are qualified for.
- Increases the value of the veterans' preference by emphasizing the initial interview and the final selection stages.

Deschutes County supports SB 87 and encourages passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator  
Deschutes County  
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