

Mayor  
Honorable Lori DeRemer



City Manager  
Jason A. Tuck, ICMA-CM

March 27, 2017

Chair Brian Boquist  
Senate Committee on Veterans & Emergency Preparedness  
900 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Support SB 320**

Dear Senator Boquist and members of the committee,

In honor of our local service members and their sacrifices, I ask for your support and DO-PASS recommendation for SB 320 to preserve and enhance Oregon's only Military Museum at Camp Withycombe. Located in Happy Valley, Camp Withycombe and its Museum are an integral part of our community, providing security, employment and culture. As declaration of our continued and longtime commitment to our service community, Happy Valley urges the state to provide adequate funding for the Museum's restoration.

The Oregon Military Museum is an important monument to Oregon's heritage. The Museum's collection of irreplaceable treasures encompasses 14,000 artifacts from all service branches, 30,000 library volumes and 750 cubic feet of documents dating back to Oregon's infancy. More simply, the Museum serves as a visible bridge between Oregon's rich past, thriving present and vibrant future. It animates our common history, creating profound and memorable experiences in remembrance of those who have sacrificed and laid down their lives in defense of our freedom.

Our shared history and the legacy of our service members, nevertheless, has been stifled. Since 2009, the Museum's content and artifacts have been stored in the Clackamas Armory and the Museum closed to the public for renovations. Funds for the Museum are being raised by Oregon residents to complete renovations and exhibits. Current estimates suggest improvements will cost \$5 million. SB 320 would dedicate \$3.5 million from the General Fund to supplement local efforts, affirming the state's commitment to local service members. Once complete, the Museum will be free to the community, serving as an educational facility for students and researchers alike.

Thank for you for supporting SB 320 and Oregon's service members, past and present. We enthusiastically await the reopening of this cherished monument.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lori DeRemer'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Lori DeRemer  
Mayor

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