



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 20, 2017

Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Colleagues:

As we prepare for the Interim Period I wanted to pass along a few suggestions for our consideration: topics for continued study, workgroup recommendations, and a proposal for your approval.

The following Emergency Management/Preparedness topics were identified in my February 2, 2017 letter:

ARES (Amateur radio structures/systems for response/recovery efforts);
Citizen Corps & Credentialing;
Existing/potential training synergies available with DPSST/EM Training;
Airports;
Seaports;
Scalable Response/Recovery Facilities;
Critical Ground Routes;
9-1-1- Status and Technology Horizons; and
Local Government Training

Several of these workgroups have made significant progress. It is my hope we build upon that framework and continue to identify areas for additional study, proposals for consideration in the 2018 Legislative Session, as well as work products we can share with associated policy committees. In addition to these workgroups, I ask us to establish two more:

Veterans' Outreach; and
Veterans' Services

It is my intention to set-aside a portion of our committee time/s during Interim Legislative Days to provide each workgroup an opportunity to share "lessons learned" as well as identify areas for future

action. These two core areas reflect Ballot Measure 96 language adopted by the historic 84% passage this past November: we must endeavor to be wise stewards of the voter's purse (and trust).

In conclusion, I offer the following proposal: coordination of the emerging "Veterans' Caucus" with our Legislative Days scheduling. With planning, we can secure an evening of the three-day work periods during the Interim for a bicameral, bipartisan "informal" event where we can focus upon national, state, and community veterans' policies. We have held two Vets Caucus events thus far, and we can make sure these are aligned with future programming.

Thank you again for the hard work and true dedication you have provided to this committee. Given our equal balancing of partisan membership – the all unanimous vote outcomes – reflect a spirit of service that may hopefully become an example to others. Whatever may come, you have helped restore my confidence in the basic goodness of our leaders to do what they believe to be right for the men and women we send into Harm's Way – and I am grateful to all of you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Evans", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul L. Evans

House Committee on Veterans' and Emergency Preparedness
Chairman