



OREGON ASSOCIATION CHIEFS OF POLICE
EXCELLENCE IN POLICING

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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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To: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

From: Jason Myers, Executive Director

Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

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Kevin Campbell, Executive Director

Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

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Date: April 22, 2021

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2481-A – Military Surplus Equipment

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Oregon State Sheriff's Association (OSSA) and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP), thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2481-A. We want to begin by thanking Rep. Karin Power and Rep. Julie Fahey, the Chief Co-Sponsors of HB 2481, for their willingness to work with us on amendments to the measure that resulted in the A-engrossed version of the bill. The measure explicitly prohibits law enforcement agencies from securing certain equipment from a military surplus program operated by the federal government and creates a process and series of requirements law enforcement agencies must satisfy when securing equipment not prohibited by the bill.

We can accept the list of prohibited items identified in HB 2481-A and can embrace the process steps and notice requirements that are outlined in the measure for military surplus equipment that is permitted. We believe that public trust is enhanced when the process of securing surplus military equipment is transparent and accessible to the public.

Oregon Law Enforcement has relied on the Federal Military Surplus Equipment program over the years for items that enhance community safety that are not accessible without the program. An example is light armored vehicles as they are offered to Law Enforcement at little to no cost through the program. These vehicles are used by Oregon Law Enforcement in very specific situations IE. active shooters, events like the Malheur Wildlife Refuge occupation, barricaded subjects, and other situations where armed subjects are posing a risk to the community or law enforcement officers. These vehicles are used to safely bring emergency medical personnel to injured parties who can't otherwise be reached safely and are often the only vehicles capable of navigating hazardous terrain to bring aid during natural disasters. Civilian versions of these vehicles are extremely expensive, most if not all Oregon agencies cannot afford them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2481-A