



LETTER OF SUPPORT

January 20, 2017

Bill Number//Law Log: HB 2

Bill Sponsor: Rep. Tuck

Bill Short Title: PRIVATE EMPLOYER VOLUNTARY VET PREFERENCE

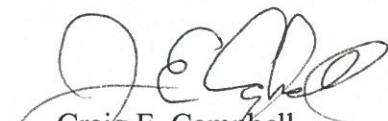
It is my understanding that Representative Tuck has introduced House Bill 2 proposing the Alaska Statutes be amended to provide a veteran hiring preference be allowed when hiring an employee.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense program established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. As a volunteer based organization, ESGR focuses on advocating for National Guard and Reservists ability to be successful military service members, while concurrently pursuing civilian employment opportunities. ESGR is supported by a network of more than 4,500 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In Alaska, our committee has been very active in advocating for strong civilian/military relationships, highlighted this past year by the nomination and selection of Alaska Airlines as one of fifteen companies nationwide to receive the Secretary of Defense "Freedom Award." The Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the U.S. Government to employers for their outstanding support of employees serving in the Guard and Reserve.

In reference to House Bill 2, the Alaska State Committee supports efforts by our state government to strengthen a positive relationship between Alaskan civilian employees and Alaskan residents who serve in our reserve components. We understand the proposed legislation is not mandatory of the private sector to provide a veteran's preference, but the tenure of the legislation shows a strong interest by our state officials to support hiring veterans in our state. This is a very positive message!

We would ask that members of the state legislature support House Bill 2. Thank you for your consideration and continued support of Alaskan military service members.



Craig E. Campbell
Alaska State Chair