

## Durao, Keith

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**From:** Matthew Pavelek <matthew.pavelek@navoba.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2016 11:26 AM  
**To:** vatestimony  
**Subject:** NaVOBA's Support for Senate Bill 2, Legislation to Create Opportunities for Veteran-Owned Businesses

Dear honorable members of the Connecticut General Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs,

On behalf of the National Veteran-Owned Business Association (NaVOBA), which represents the more than 3 million small businesses owned by America's military veterans, I'm writing to register our enthusiastic support for the Senate Bill 2, the proposed legislation would amend the general statutes to (1) provide veteran-owned micro businesses with up to a fifteen per cent preference under section 4a-59 of the general statutes for the purpose of determining the "lowest responsible qualified bidder" when a contract is awarded through competitive bidding, and (2) provide veteran-owned businesses that are newly established on or after July 1, 2016, with a one-time exemption from payment of the state business entity tax under section 12-284b of the general statutes to increase the percentage goal for veteran-owned businesses in state contracting.

Presently there are 27 states across the nation that have programs in place to create opportunities for veteran-owned businesses ([www.navoba.com/statetracker](http://www.navoba.com/statetracker)). This week the state of New Mexico increased its preference to 10%. The 15% percent preference included in this legislation would make Connecticut the most "Vetrepreneur-Friendly" state in this category. The National Veteran-Owned Business Association supports the proposed legislation as far more of Connecticut's vetrepreneurs will benefit from the amplified threshold.

As the voice for veteran-owned businesses across the nation, we applaud your leadership of this important piece of legislation that will enhance and expand opportunities for the small businesses that we represent in the Constitution State. We eagerly look forward to sharing the news when this law is passed on the pages of *Vetrepreneur*, our national print and [digital magazine](#).

Respectfully submitted,

**MATTHEW PAVELEK, M.A.**  
*NaVOBA VP, Membership*



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