

As a dual retired military couple and with 2 out of our 3 children currently serving in the military our family is passionate about our country and we were proud to serve our country for over 50 years combined active duty military service. I am originally from Astoria Oregon, my wife is originally from Rockland Massachusetts so picking a retirement location became a matter of job opportunities, Veterans benefits, cost of living and other factors. We chose Oregon because I was able to find a job post retirement that I am very happy with, however, upon my return to Oregon I have found that the landscape has changed dramatically since I left over 30 years ago. Oregon is home to the highest income tax in the union, cost of living is on the rise, and homelessness is a major concern for many Oregonians. As for the military, Oregon does not have a large active duty military presence, a very small veteran presence and even smaller retired veteran presence as compared to many other states. I believe that we owe it to our Oregon veterans who have honorably served for over 20 years that earn a meager pension to keep it free from Oregon state taxes. That money was earned elsewhere, in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Korea and 100s of other locations around the globe protecting our rights as American Citizens. By passing this measure, it would be a small token of appreciation and by exempting military pension from Oregon state taxes it would give a small amount of money back to our Veterans who desperately need it and show how much their sacrifices are appreciated.