

**Written Testimony of Colonel (ret) Karl S. Pond, in support of Senate Bill 540
3:00 p.m., February 1, 2023**

Dear Senator Sollman, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

My name is Colonel (retired) Karl Pond and I recently retired from the Oregon Army National Guard after 37 years of Military Service.

I support Senate Bill 540 as a state initiative to keep more retired military members in Oregon. Because Oregon does not provide any relief for military pensions, a large number of recent military retirees look to move to other states that either do not tax military pensions, or at least give partial relief. I personally know of many former Oregon National Guardsman that have chosen to live somewhere other than Oregon, with one of their primary reasons being to avoid taxation on their military pensions.

If SB 540 were to become law, there is a higher likelihood of retaining retired military veterans in Oregon. Those retirees are a valuable benefit to the communities they live in through their contribution to the local economy, volunteering, or working on a second career. For the small impact this bill would have at the state level, the return on investment to the communities these military veterans live in is high.

My wife, will be retiring soon from the Oregon Army National Guard, and we are looking to other military pension tax friendly states to establish our primary residence in. Passage of this bill may convince us that it is worth it to stay in Oregon.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

Karl S. Pond
Colonel (ret), Oregon Army National Guard