

Submitter: Herman Reed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB515

Dear Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue,

My name is Herman L. Reed, and I am retiring from the United States Navy following a 32+ year career. Since my time serving on a ballistic missile submarine as SUBASE Bangor in Silverdale, WA , I have LOVED the Pacific Northwest so much so, I had three subsequent tours in the area following my time on USS NEVADA SSBN 733(G). My love Oregon came as a result of a family friend settling in Pacific City (PC) and having the opportunity to visit on occasion. The die was cast and the love solidified for Oregon (especially the I-5 corridor between Portland metro area and Eugene and PC) and the Portland metro area as a potential place to settle, post-retirement. I came to this conclusion as a result of my son, Andrew, taking a Make-A-Wish tour of the University of Oregon athletic facilities and then to Nike Headquarters to be an "Employee for a Day".

Though I am a couple of weeks from retirement and currently a Washington state resident (due to my military service), I really want to live in Oregon. I completely understand if I get another job (which I will have to do) and live in Oregon, I will have to pay taxes on that income. I am fine with that. The one thing giving me pause is the fact my retired pay will be taxed. I am considering moving from Tennessee (my last duty station) to Vancouver, WA to be close to Oregon but not have the benefit, my retired pay, I worked so hard for taxed as if I was still laboring for it. I am not. The sacrifice was made during the long hours aboard USS NEVADA, USS NIMITZ (CVN 68), and all the duty stations surrounding duty at sea, along with all the folks on other platforms, working countless hours away from family and friends without expectation of thanks or extra benefits. Passing this bill is one way to show appreciation for the women and men who lay it all on the line, and a way to let them know the State of Oregon recognizes the sacrifices she/he and, in many cases, their families have made in furtherance of the safety and security of the United States of America.

While I am not a resident of the State of Oregon, it is my sincere hope you will consider what my perspective. While military families get squeezed financially from a number of directions, every little bit helps. It is welcomed and appreciated when state governments recognize how much the little things mean to military families and go into their decision processes related to where to settle and what a post-military life looks like. I appreciate you taking the perspective of a potential resident into consideration as you debate this important bill. Thank you.

Very respectfully,

Herman L. Reed  
CDR, USN