

Submitter: Alan Rathsam

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency
Management, Federal and World Affairs

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB947

As a native Oregonian and resident, I urge state decision makers to oppose the passage of SB 947, which would make unacceptable changes in Oregon law by replacing the word "militia" with the word "national guard." This change in wording is unacceptable because it would compromise second-amendment rights, and ultimately, the freedoms and liberties of Oregonians, "the people." The right of people's militias to be armed must not be lost. The right to bear arms in the Constitution does not apply only to members of the Oregon National Guard, under the command authority of the Governor. The motivation and purpose of this change in wording does not serve the best interests of Oregonians.

For reference, Oregon law defines the "unorganized militia" as "... all able-bodied residents of the state between the ages of 18 and 45 who are not serving in any force of the organized militia or who are not on the state retired list and who are or who have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States; subject, however, to such exemptions from military duty as are created by the laws of the United States."