

Submitter: Will Hobson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB667

Thank you members of the Committee for holding this hearing today.

Fellow Oregonians, my name is Will Hobson.

As someone who was born and raised here, I love this place. As do many people who move here. If I had to prioritize a place on Earth, it would be here.

That fundamental principle is what drives me to speak to you today. We simply must re-evaluate our priorities if Oregon is to thrive.

Decades of overseas wars have not served our nation. While corporate media has done it's level best to hide and mask the graphic violence, they can not hide our homeless veterans in wheelchairs panhandling on the exit ramp, or the increases of everyday prices that come from out of control spending on dysfunctional military hardware, or our worn out bridges and roads.

If you do one thing with your time and money you, by logic, cannot do something else with that time and money. That's how time and money works.

You MUST prioritize.

Our National Guard has priorities here at home. Wildfire remediation and suppression are an obvious one. During the devastating 2020 wildfire season, we had National Guard Chinook helicopters deployed in the now defunct mission in Afghanistan. Just recently, we have Oregon National Guard deployed to active combat zones in Eastern Syria, as well as other places in the Middle East.

Was Afghanistan a bigger priority than Oregon? Is Syria?

These deployments have massive costs, in money and lives. I simply do not believe that the political powers in Washington DC have Oregon and Oregonians best interest in mind. Why would they?

For this reason we need to put up boundaries on when we lend out our most capable men and women to a collective problem faced by the nation. If members of Congress can not come together and take personal political responsibility for declaring war, than the conflict isn't important enough to be worth risking the lives of our troops and

no amount of federal funding should be worth their sacrifice.

Let's exert some independence from DC and fly with our own wings. Make Oregon the first in the nation to pass The Defend The Guard Act with SB 667.

Bring the troops home.

Thank you!

-Will Hobson

Vice Chair, Libertarian Party of Oregon