

Submitter: Chuck Fall

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB667

Green Liberty Caucus, Oregon Chapter of the Pacific Green Party, supports passage of Defend the Guard, SB 667. As a matter of principle, the Green Party is opposed to militarism, we support peace, and we oppose American hegemony abroad, and seek to reform the national security state agencies. We respect of course, the right of our nation to defend itself from foreign adversaries.

The US Constitution enshrines the power to declare war only to Congress, and SB 667 protects, would prevent, the Oregon National Guard from being deployed when war has not formally been declared.

Congress has not declared war since WW II, but has since authorized the president to send troops overseas in the name of national security. This is unconstitutional (in our opinion) on the simple grounds that a military operation that looks like war, acts like war, and functions like war, is a matter for Congress to declare.

If Congress wants Oregon national guard troops to be deployed overseas in a military action, then Congress needs to do what the constitution says to do; formally, declare war, otherwise, the guard stays home.

Since September 11th, 2001, the United States has dedicated 20 plus years of undeclared war in Afghanistan and Iraq and Libya and other places, as a way of establishing American hegemony. This has been conducted on the backs of the state national guard.

SB 667, Defend the Guard, would prevent Oregon troops from being used to advance unjust wars. It would protect Oregonians from being used as fodder in wars of aggression that only benefit the plutocratic power structure, the power elite, to use the term from C.Wright Mills.

President Eisenhower warned the nation about the military industrial complex; sadly, Congress has done nothing to counter the influence, and so now today, it is left to Oregon legislators to set the record straight, that the Oregon National Guard will not be played as a pawn in American national security operations abroad.