

Submitter: Mark Rolofson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment SB667  
or Topic:

I strongly support SB 667 - Defend The Guard. I consider this legislation to be vital to protecting the Oregon National Guard, which serves important domestic tasks in numerous states of emergencies, such as natural disasters and civil unrest. The Oregon National Guard should not be used as a backdoor draft for the US military, when it needs more soldiers to fight in foreign wars. The Oregon National Guard should not be used as a peacekeeping force in foreign occupations. US imperialism has continued to create carnage and failed States throughout the Middle East, Afghanistan and now in Ukraine.

It has been many decades since the US Congress has officially declared war on a foreign country. An official declaration of war by the US Congress should be the only way the Oregon National Guard could ever be deployed to an armed conflict in a foreign country. The National Guard and its equipment (such as helicopters) served in both the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars. The Iraq War, which began in 2003, was an illegal invasion and pre-emptive strike based on manufactured lies of weapons of mass destruction. The Bush Cheney Administration ignored the weapons inspectors who were finding no weapons of mass destruction and launched the invasion known as Shock And Awe. Pre-emptive strikes are illegal under international law. The US also dropped bombs that contained depleted uranium, which will contaminate Iraq for many decades with highly carcinogenic waste. Anyone who comes in contact with depleted uranium will likely die from it years later. The US destroyed Iraq, killed nearly one million Iraqis and thousands of US soldiers. Many more soldiers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan were either physically, mentally or emotionally crippled for life. Many of them have committed suicide. This should not have been the fate of soldiers serving in the National Guard.

I do not support my tax dollars being used in US regime change wars like Iraq, Libya and Syria. I do not support the apartheid state of Israel, who has committed a genocide of the Palestinians in Gaza with US bombs, military support and diplomatic cover on the UN Security Council. Benjamin Netanyahu seems determined to drag the US, under the Trump Administration, into a war with Iran. The US will likely be defeated in a war with Iran. I am strongly opposed to a US invasion of Iran. I am strongly opposed to the Oregon National Guard being deployed to fight future wars in the Middle East.

The Oregon National Guard belongs in Oregon or to help other American States in emergency circumstances. SB 667 - Defend The Guard is an extremely important

piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Rolofson