

Submitter: John Morell
On Behalf Of: SB 159
Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency
Management, Federal and World Affairs
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB159

Honorable members of the legislature:

I am writing in support of SB 159, authorizing military Veteran recognition for motorcycle and moped license plates. I am the President of a nonprofit, Veterans Back 40 Adventure (aka VB40; 501c3: 62-2041640) and a retired Naval Officer. VB40's purpose is to help Veterans and active-duty personnel fight the epidemic of suicide by getting them out on adventure motorcycle camping trips and rallies with other Veterans.

One of the cherished things among many Veterans is simply recognition of service. This bill is relatively simple, not too costly, and would go a long way to show Oregon Veterans and active-duty personnel that our sacrifices and service are recognized and appreciated by the State of Oregon. Please consider these things as you prepare to vote on this bill.

With the current tides of confusion and indiscriminate cutting of benefits, many Veterans are very concerned about their basic living situations and ability to support their families. For some Veterans a motorcycle is their sole or primary mode of transportation. Being able to hold onto that part of their lives and share their service with those around them without having to say a word; indeed, just walking out and seeing that the State of Oregon thought enough to honor that service as you have with automobile registrations and plates; that alone may be the difference in the life of a Veteran. I appreciate my distinctive plates very much and would be honored to add such a plate to my motorcycles, even at an additional cost.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
John S. Morell, Jr. (USN Retired)
President, Veterans Back 40 Adventure.