

Submitter: Pete Derouin
On Behalf Of: All Oregonian Veterans
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2050

I am from Oregon. Born in Salem in 1967. Went to University of Oregon. Got my Commission in the US Army from University of Oregon ROTC. I love Oregon. I am active with the local American Legion, and VFW posts. I served over 29 years in the Army. When I recently retired, my first choice was to come home to Oregon. But during the outprocessing for the Army, they pointed out that Oregon is one of only 9 states in the U.S. that taxes military retirement. So currently while I live in Canby, I am looking for something over the river in Vancouver because I would save a few THOUSAND dollars every year on taxes. These days where every dollar counts, it makes sense to move the 20 miles north into Washington. I know of at least 3 other Veterans that have already done the same. But I would rather stay here. And when I move, separate from the obvious money component of this argument is the fact that many Veterans are very active in their local communities. I will also be moving my VFW / Legion memberships and other volunteer work over the river. If Oregon truly values Veterans and their service, why not offer the same incentive as 41 other states to keep/intice Vets to come to Oregon?