

Submitter: Kevin Harter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2050

As someone who lives in Klamath County—home to Kingsley Field Air National Guard Base—I see firsthand the impact veterans have on our community. They serve our country, but they also serve our towns. Veterans here are our neighbors, our business owners, our volunteers, our Little League coaches, and our civic leaders. They continue contributing long after their military service ends, often bringing unique skills and leadership that strengthen our local economy and community.

Offering a state income tax exemption is a meaningful way to recognize that service and sacrifice. More than that, it encourages veterans to stay in Oregon—to build their businesses, raise their families, and invest their experience back into our state. Rural communities like Klamath County, where attracting and retaining skilled professionals is often a challenge, would see lasting benefit. But the positive impact of this bill will be felt statewide.

Supporting veterans isn't just the right thing to do. It's an investment in the strength of our communities and the future of Oregon. I urge you to pass House Bill 2050.