

Submitter: Rich Schuster
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2050

Dear leaders,

I strongly support HB2050 for our state veterans- those that served the state of Oregon in the Guard. We watch over and over as our Oregon Guard work Federal missions in defense of our nation, while simultaneously fighting wildfire, providing neighborhood protection for homes evacuated in emergency situations and endless examples of snow removal for civilian homes, COVID response and support, hospital (both mental and standard medical facilities), call centers and any other emergency situation that the Governor or lawmakers have needed. They do so without hesitation and their families go without them for long periods of time. The least we can do is provide the same tax incentives that neighboring states provide to them and they can deservedly retire in the beautiful state that they so dedicatedly served. To have them move away after decades of selfless service is a sad end to these careers.

The only argument against is "lost revenue" to the state; this is a short-sighted argument. Many (if not most) veterans move out of the state within a few years of retiring because the tax savings can be a huge change in their retired lifestyle. They will keep their home here instead and pay property taxes, with many of them starting new business ventures that would also provide state taxes through both revenue and employment taxes.

In thanking them for their selfless contributions, we also enable them to stay in Oregon and their contributions to state revenue will continue in multiple other ways. This is the right thing to do for those that serve.

Thank you!
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