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On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2050

My husband and I served together in the Oregon National Guard. He retired at 26 years of service in January of 2024. In the first 6 months of retirement - something we had prepared for since we met and got married nearly 14 years ago - we realized that his retirement pay would not be enough to allow us to stay on the farm that we purchased in 2020 as our retirement plan. The state income tax that we pay every month reduces our income so much that we could not afford to maintain the lifestyle we thought we could during retirement. I have since transition from a stay at home parent (serving part time in the Army) and farmer to a full time Army officer with the US Army Corps of Engineers in order to allow our family to take the time needed to fix our farm enough to sell it and move back to a smaller house with a tiny yard so that we can get back to a retirement life that we planned for. We have downsized our house and all other bills in order to stay in our loved state and keep our children stable in their current schools. If our girls were not school aged we would not stay in this state - taking our income with us to another more veteran / tax friendly state. Please consider making it more possible to stay in our home state by passing this bill and easing the burden on military families.

We know many retired officer families who upon retirement by a house and switch residency to states like Nevada, Florida, and Washington to avoid the Oregon state income tax that takes such a high toll on the retirement income we earned with blood sweat and tears. If this bill passed many more true oregonians would stay here calling this beautiful state home through retirement.