HB 2086: Veteran's lottery fund dedication from special vets' games.
Revenue to veterans' workforce training
Testimony for House Veteran's Committee February 21, 2013

The bill's goal is laudable, providing workforce training for our returning and already home but without a job service people. But the mechanism is not laudable.

It will encourage, justify even, addictive behavior more pointedly than current programs at Lottery, where the use of the state's earnings is spread far and wide in the state.

The benefit's size is unknown, thus unlikely to be matched to the need either now or in the distant future. Will Oregon receive $80,000 or $8,000,000?

These bills would earmark more lottery revenue. Fifty nine percent of lottery funds are already dedicated, leaving only 41% to be legislatively appropriated. Each dollar removed by dedication reduces the funds available for other critical needs that must compete against each other.   Yet this will undoubtedly be the first of many earmarks of specialty lottery products, grand ideas each, against which you as elected will find it impossible to vote.

We would recommend that you let this bill die quietly in the committee.

If you can't do that, find a different funding source. After determining the amount needed, divide that number by the number of Christmas trees sold in the previous season, and add an assessment to each tree. That will generate the amount of revenue needed.

But if you are stuck on using lottery funds, support using lottery bonds for infrastructure projects under the Special Public Works Fund. This will create the jobs these vets need; you have a bill for that.