

PAUL L. EVANS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



May 14, 2015

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Barnhart, Chair
House Revenue Committee
Oregon House of Representatives
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Barnhart:

I am writing this letter to support passage of House Bill 2818. I regret missing the public hearing today, but I am hosting a 40th Anniversary event for our Hmong-Laotian Allies. After four decades of living in the shadows – these courageous men and women are being recognized as full partners in our efforts in Indochina – and Vietnam. I appreciate your graciousness and understanding my absence from the hearing today.

House Bill 2818 is one of the kinds of bills that are too often discarded in the “good intentions but not feasible” piles of legislation. And truth be told, this measure is neither a “game-changer” or by any standard a major piece of legislation. However, at a time when we are asking more (and more) of our volunteers throughout our counties and communities – this bill demonstrates our faith in them and our recognition of the critical services they provide – often at significant personal and professional costs.

Representative Boone has sponsored this kind of legislation for over a decade. And as a former volunteer firefighter, I know first-hand how far a little extra help can stretch for men and women that serve in communities that cannot afford the level of emergency medical and fire services so many other cities and counties can. I ask the committee to recognize the value of demonstrating our understanding of the importance of these efforts.

Right now over 70% of our nation’s firefighters are volunteer. Recent changes in federal interpretations of wage requirements and standards have stymied traditional forms of even partial compensation for the men and women that dedicate so much for so many. House Bill 2818 is a small thing that will spark a big response: it will remind the first responders and the families that sustain them – which we are in this together – that Oregon may not be able to match our will with our wallet... but that we are partners in common cause.

Your challenges are great and our resources are limited. However, I ask for your serious consideration and eventual passage of House Bill 2818 as a symbol to the volunteer community that we share a similar vision in what Oregon can be, and how that Oregon shows appreciation. We were built upon the foundation of a volunteer culture. House Bill 2818 supports and sustains that ethic. Thank you for your willingness to schedule a public hearing on House Bill 2818. Please let me know if there is anything I can provide that might help advancing this proposal.

Respectfully,

Paul L. Evans
Oregon House of Representatives
District 20

House Bill 2818

Sponsored by Representative BOONE

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Adds Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association to list of entities eligible for individual income tax return checkoff contribution.

Applies to individual income tax returns for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2015.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to charitable checkoffs; creating new provisions; amending ORS 305.727; and prescribing
3 an effective date.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 305.727 is amended to read:

6 305.727. (1) In addition to the opportunity to be listed on the Oregon individual tax return forms
7 under ORS 305.725, an entity on the eligibility roster may apply to the commission for listing in the
8 Department of Revenue instructions for tax return checkoff contribution as provided in this section.

9 (2) In order to qualify for instruction listing, the entity must apply to the commission in the
10 manner in which an entity applies for listing on the individual tax forms under ORS 305.725.

11 (3) In order to qualify for instruction listing, the entity must meet the qualifications described
12 in ORS 305.720, collect 10,000 or more signatures from electors of this state attesting that the
13 electors support the entity qualifying for instruction listing and be:

14 (a) The Oregon Veterans' Home, the Nongame Wildlife Fund, the Alzheimer's Disease Research
15 Fund, the Oregon Military Emergency Financial Assistance Fund, the Oregon Department of
16 Veterans' Affairs Veterans Suicide Prevention and Outreach Program Fund, **the Oregon Volunteer
17 Firefighters Association** or the subaccount described in ORS 316.493 for contributions dedicated
18 to the prevention of child abuse and neglect;

19 (b) A nonprofit organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code with a
20 gross income of at least \$1 million for the year prior to application; or

21 (c) The central office for a group of affiliated nonprofit organizations with a collective gross
22 income of at least \$1 million in the year prior to the year of application.

23 (4) The commission shall review applications and approve those that meet the qualifications of
24 ORS 305.720 and this section. An entity that is approved by the commission shall thereafter qualify
25 for instruction listing for six years and thereafter must reapply under this section for continued
26 listing in additional six-year periods, except that an entity that reapplies does not need to collect
27 10,000 or more signatures.

28 (5) The commission shall certify those entities that are on the eligibility roster and that the
29 commission has approved in the interim since the last preceding certification to the Department of
30 Revenue for listing in the instructions to the forms described in ORS 305.710.

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.