

**National Commander, Fredrick Schafer**  
**National Association of Atomic Veterans (N.A.A.V.)**  
**130 Cleveland Street**  
**Lebanon, Oregon 97355**

Senator Diane Rosenbaum, Chair  
Senate Rules Committee

To the Honorable Senator Diane Rosenbaum and Committee:

As the current National Commander of the Atomic Veterans Association, it is my privilege and responsibility to let you know that our national association is in full support of both HCR-21 and HB- **2522**.

Providing basic quality health coverage for Oregonians from the Compact of Free Association (**COFA**) nations of Palau, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands is the responsibility of our nation. Atomic Veterans (N.A.A. V.) were there on the islands participating in the atomic blasts and then trying to clean up after the blasts. Those same veterans have encountered many of the health and mortality issues that have been visited upon the islanders and their descendants.

The atomic testing which occurred on their islands has left their homeland uninhabitable for thousands of years to come. Those who lived for countless generations on the islands used as nuclear test areas have died there or emigrated legally to Oregon and other states where many live and work for marginal wages. Many cannot afford health insurance even though many of their health issues can be traced to the radiation exposure suffered upon them and their recent ancestors.

We thank you for your strong support for **HCR-21 and HB-2522** and request that your efforts continue on behalf of **COFA**.

Sincerely,

Fredrick Schafer  
National Commander. National Association of Atomic Veterans