



February 23, 2017

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners**  
**Policy Position**  
**HB 2235: Property tax exemptions for certain veterans**

**Clackamas County supports HB 2235:** The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2235, which grants a property tax exemption for eligible veterans or surviving spouses of eligible veterans.

Clackamas County is proud to serve its returning veterans and also support family members who have lost loved ones to military conflict. In 2016, Clackamas County reaffirmed its Veterans Covenant – a pledge made with its cities, state legislative delegation members, and others to ensure appropriate local resources would be made available to support returning veterans. Returning from conflict should not be burdensome to those who volunteered to serve in the military, and while many resources exist to support returning vets and stabilization into civilian life, more can always be done to protect and support those who fight for our freedom.

In 2016, the Clackamas County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) supported veterans with over 1,629 claims to the VA, and between 2014 and 2015 the CVSO helped secure more than \$10.9 million in federal benefits for Clackamas County veterans. Support comes in many forms, but housing is certainly one of the most important.

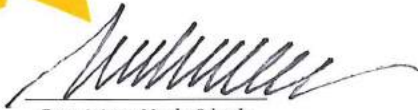
HB 2235 is a small step towards ensuring veterans are receiving support to stay in homes and also aims to reduce one of the barriers that can lead to homelessness for low income veterans. It can also provide an incentive for homeless veterans or veterans in unstable housing conditions to work towards a permanent living situation. Clackamas County is also pleased that HB 2235 ensures that surviving spouses are also cared for through this legislation.

**We urge a “yes” vote for HB 2235.**

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.

# Clackamas Community Covenant

## Our Pledge to Military Families May 16, 2016



Commissioner Martha Schrader  
Clackamas County



Honorable Alan Olsen  
Oregon State Senator



Honorable Julie Parrish  
Oregon State Representative



Cameron Smith  
Director, Oregon Department  
of Veterans Affairs



Brigadier General Steven Beach  
Assistant Adjutant General Army (ATAG)  
Oregon National Guard



Maj. General (Ret.) Curtis A. Loop  
State President Oregon Association  
of the United States Army,  
U.S. Army Reserve,  
Ambassador for Oregon



Maj. General (Ret.) Daniel F. Hitchcock  
Army Reserve Ambassador Emeritus



President Joanne Truesdell  
Clackamas Community College



Dave Hunt  
Executive Director  
Pacific Northwest Defense Coalition

### Clackamas County is committed to:

- Providing free assistance to veterans and their families.
- Advocating for state and federal VA benefits.
- Working with business and community partners to connect veterans to employment, services, and programs to ensure veterans in Clackamas County receive help and services they are entitled to and that they are well-served and respected members of our community.

### Department of the Army, Oregon National Guard, Army Reserve and the State of Oregon recognize:

- Oregonians serving in the Oregon National Guard, the U.S. Army on Active Duty and in the Army Reserve have contributed greatly to the welfare of both our state and our nation.
- The strength of our service members from all branches of the military comes from the strength of their families and communities they call home.

### Oregon Legislative Leaders are committed to:

- Creating legislation that supports and recognizes the sacrifices and needs of service members and their families.
- Building support for service members and units within their districts.
- Ensuring service members receive employment protection.
- Removing barriers to military families in accessing state and local services and resources.

### Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to:

- Connecting veterans, dependents and military families with available benefits, programs and resources.
- Safeguarding the availability of veterans service officers at the local level.

### The Cities of Clackamas County are committed to:

- Working seamlessly with partners to connect resident veterans and military families with support and assistance throughout the deployment cycle.
- Creating a welcoming transition for returning veterans and their families.
- Creating supportive, positive environment for city employees returning from duty, and their families.

### Clackamas Community College is committed to:

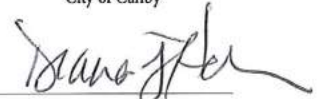
- Assisting military members and all veterans with employment, education and reintegration services.
- Creating new initiatives and partnerships to expand services and support to military members, veterans and their families.

### Pacific Northwest Defense Coalition is committed to:

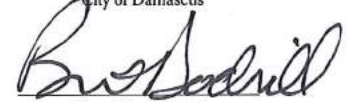
- Providing essential equipment resources for our military members.
- Supporting the educational and community needs of military families.
- An employment networking service for military members.



Mayor Brian Hodson  
City of Canby



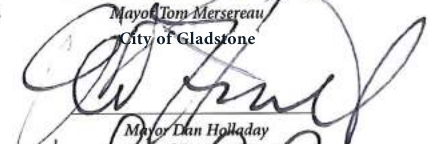
Mayor Diana Helm  
City of Damascus



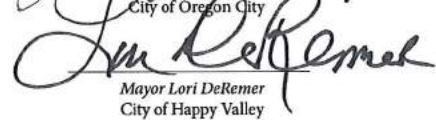
Mayor Brent Dodrill  
City of Estacada



Mayor Tom Mersereau  
City of Gladstone



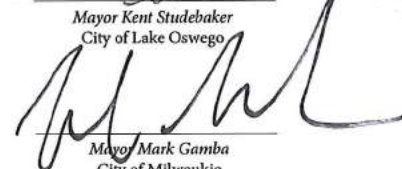
Mayor Dan Holladay  
City of Oregon City



Mayor Lori DeRemer  
City of Happy Valley



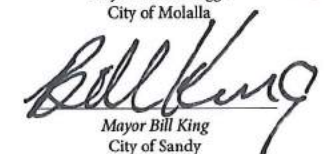
Mayor Kent Stuebaker  
City of Lake Oswego



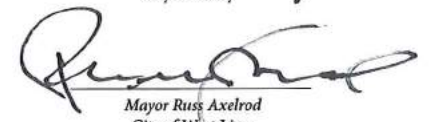
Mayor Mark Gamba  
City of Milwaukie



Mayor Debbie Rogge  
City of Molalla



Mayor Bill King  
City of Sandy



Mayor Russ Axelrod  
City of West Linn



Mayor Tim Knapp  
City of Wilsonville