

May 5, 2017

TO: Senate President Peter Courtney  
Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Senator Brian Boquist

Regarding: HB 2880

Dear Honorable Senators,

Please include my comments herein regarding HB 2880 for the May 9<sup>th</sup> senate hearing on this bill.

First, I am very proud to have served our nation's military and truly believe that all citizens should serve the country in some clear manner as in the military, police, Peace Corps, etc.. I served in the U.S. Army 1968-1971, mostly in Vietnam's II Corps and IV Corps and saw a war that I do not think the U.S. should be proud of. The POW/MIA flag is primarily a symbol of that war and the deep divisions existing in our country. The issue of POW's and MIA's is an important one to consider and like most issues is not black and white. Honoring the selfless people who serve our nation in all capacities is laudable and one that I wholeheartedly support. However, given that we do not currently have any known POW's and HB 8880's proposal to mandate all public buildings fly a POW/MIA flag, seems nonsensical and a terrible precedent, because there are potentially endless causes and groups to honor like the CIA, State Department, Peace Corps, FBI, DEA, Border Patrol, Secret Service, Missionaries, and on and on.

As a retired public school teacher now serving my community as a City Councilor, I also see the mandate of HB 2880 creating unnecessary expenses and tensions in our communities and schools. I have no objection to my neighbor, local VFW or American Legion erecting POW/MIA flags, but to me, mandating all public entities to fly this flag is quite ill-advised.

Thank you for considering my comments!

Joel Haugen  
Scappoose, Oregon