

February 21, 2018

LETTER OF SUPPORT

FROM: Thomas Etienne <thomas.etienne@protonmail.com>

TO: House Committee On Revenue,
<lro.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov>

CC: Chair Phil Barnhart <rep.philbarnhart@oregonlegislature.gov>,
Vice Chair Greg Smith <rep.gregsmith@oregonlegislature.gov>,
Vice Chair Barbara Smith Warner
<rep.barbarasmithwarner@oregonlegislature.gov>,
Rep. Knute Buehler <rep.knutebuehler@oregonlegislature.gov>,
Rep. Lynn Findley <rep.lynnfindley@oregonlegislature.gov>,
Rep. Diego Hernandez <rep.diegohernandez@oregonlegislature.gov>,
Rep. Pam Marsh <rep.pammarsh@oregonlegislature.gov>
Rep. Rob Nosse <rep.robnosse@oregonlegislature.gov>
Rep. E. Werner Reschke <rep.ewernerreschke@oregonlegislature.gov>

SUBJECT: Oregon Veterans Support for House Bill 4007

1. This letter encourages all members of the House Committee On Revenue to support HB 4007. Hello, my name is Thomas Etienne. I am a private citizen and Army veteran lately returned to Oregon communicating on my own behalf about the security and well-being of our state. Additionally, I have been given approval to include the names of the following US military veterans currently living in Oregon:

- a. Albert Lee, United States Army (veteran) - Portland, Oregon
- b. Matthew Ruddell, United States Army (veteran) - Portland, Oregon
- c. Cindy Smith, United States Air Force (retired) - Portland, Oregon
- d. Gabriel Vaught, United States Army (reserves) - Aloha, Oregon
- e. Valdez Bravo, United States Army (reserves) - Portland, Oregon

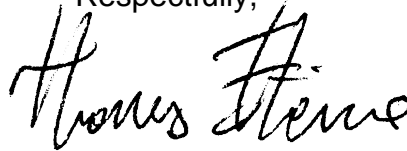
2. Based on my observations after returning to the northwest in 2016, I have been struck deeply by the increased amount of houselessness facing so many of our Oregon residents. Having served in uniform for 8-years in our post-9/11 wartime era, it is painful and infuriating for me to know that many lacking access to stable housing are also fellow veterans. The sacrifice and commitment that was asked of those who served in uniform deserves to be reflected back with a similar degree of commitment in our public policymaking. If the obligation to protect our citizens' most basic welfare were treated with even half the passion and prestige that our military regularly receives at public

SUBJECT: Oregon Veterans Support for House Bill 4007

events, the question of generating revenue for housing assistance would hardly be a debate. It would simply be a matter of proper due diligence to make sure those who are facing increased economic and health risks are able to live with dignity in the richest nation on the planet.

3. In closing, we support raising the document recording fee as a prudent step towards funding housing assistance. We fully support the stated pledge that 25% of housing assistance program efforts funded via HB 4007 will be specifically allocated towards supporting veterans. Additionally, extending a savings program for first-time home buyers is presents another worthwhile opportunity to increase long-term stable home ownership.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Etienne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'T'.

Thomas Etienne