



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office

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DATE: February 19, 2020

TO: Senate Committee on Veterans

FROM: Mac Lynde, Deputy Administrator, Delivery and Operations Division
Oregon Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: HB 4083 – POW/MIA Roadside Memorial Signs

INTRODUCTION

House Bill 4083 expands the eligibility for a Fallen Hero roadside memorial sign. The measure states that an individual killed in the line of duty who was formerly designated as either a prisoner of war or unaccounted for by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency be eligible for a roadside memorial sign erected by the Oregon Department of Transportation, without first having a concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly.

DISCUSSION

The Oregon Department of Transportation currently manages a roadside memorial sign program, enabling families and communities of fallen heroes to commemorate them with a roadside sign honoring their sacrifice. Roadside memorial signs are currently placed for fallen military personnel, law enforcement officers, and firefighters killed in the line of duty; HB 4083 allows for certain fallen military personnel to be eligible without a concurrent resolution.

Upon passage of HB 4083, ODOT's current process and management of these roadside memorial signs will remain the same. ODOT will coordinate with families and communities of the fallen heroes to ensure the signs are placed carefully and swiftly after the statutory requirements are met. Placement of roadside memorial signs are informed by family preference, as well as technical design and traffic engineering standards to ensure highway safety and support of ongoing maintenance and operational needs.

SUMMARY

HB 4083 expands ODOT's successful roadside memorial sign program by adding that the families or communities of those individuals classified as a POW/MIA can apply directly to ODOT. This change will not require significant program or administration changes and will therefore have minimal impact on ODOT's budget or programs.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any additional questions.