

Submitter: James Richards

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2050

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House Committee on Revenue  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2050 and HB 2050-2 Amendment

Dear Chair, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2050 and the proposed amendment HB 2050-2 dated February 24, 2025, and posted to OLIS on March 14, 2025. This important legislation seeks to exempt all retirement pay or pensions received for service in the Armed Forces of the United States from state income tax for Oregon veterans. As a veteran, I firmly believe that this measure is a necessary step toward honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's military retirees.

Veterans dedicate years of their lives to serving our country, often at great personal and familial cost. Many of these individuals face financial challenges upon retirement, particularly as they transition into civilian life. Exempting their retirement pay from state income tax would provide tangible relief, ensuring that Oregon remains a competitive and welcoming state for veterans and their families.

Additionally, enacting this exemption aligns Oregon with several other states that have already recognized the importance of easing financial burdens on military retirees. By doing so, Oregon can improve veteran retention rates, attract skilled former service members to our workforce, and acknowledge the debt of gratitude we owe to those who have served.

The proposed amendment HB 2050-2 strengthens this bill by refining its implementation and ensuring it effectively meets the needs of our veterans. I urge this committee to advance HB 2050 and its amendment to full passage, demonstrating Oregon's commitment to the well-being of our military retirees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James Richards

