

Bryan Johnson  
Retired U.S. Air Force  
Klamath Falls, Oregon  
March 18, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

Subject: Support for HB2050

Imagine serving your country for decades—facing the chaos of combat, the weight of sacrifice, and the quiet pride of duty—only to return home and find that the support you earned feels just out of reach. As a retired veteran who proudly wore the uniform of this nation, I've seen firsthand the toll that service takes, not just on me, but on my brothers and sisters in arms. Oregon HB2050 isn't just a bill—it's a lifeline for veterans like me, I urge you to hear our story.

Veterans that call Oregon home are struggling. Too many of us face barriers to healthcare, employment, and housing—promises made to us that have yet to be fully kept. The current system, while well-intentioned, leaves gaps that trap retirees like me in red tape or force us to fight for benefits we shouldn't have to beg for. HB2050 addresses these cracks by reducing the retired veteran's tax burden, thus ensuring that those who served aren't left behind. The need is real: without this bill, we risk losing more veterans to despair, poverty, or worse. Our service didn't end when we took off the uniform—neither should Oregon's commitment to us.

HB2050 offers a clear solution. By bolstering the veteran's financial wellbeing, this will allow for veteran retirees to expand business ventures to rural areas like where I live, this bill meets us where we are. It ensures that retired veterans—many of whom have given the best years of our lives—can access stable housing, afford the necessities of life on a fixed income. It's not a handout; it's honoring a debt. I've seen what proper support can do: a little financial help gave a friend of mine, a fellow vet, the tools to rebuild after going through a rough patch. HB2050 can do that for thousands more.

Picture an Oregon where every retired veteran stands tall—where the state honors their defenders service by removing a major burden from their life, where a neighbor, a Vietnam vet, can afford the groceries he needs, and where young retirees found business's creating valued jobs for their communities. That's the future HB2050 promises: a state that leads the nation in caring for its heroes.

I'm asking you, as lawmakers and as Oregonians, to stand with us. Pass HB2050. Give retired veterans the dignity and support we've earned. I've fought for this country—now I'm fighting for this bill, not just for me, but for every veteran who calls Oregon home. Vote yes, and let's build a future where no one who served is left behind.

Sincerely,  
Bryan Johnson, CMSgt  
Retired U.S. Air Force