

Submitter: Christina Root

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2050

I am writing in strong support of HB 2050. As a soon-to-be retiree from the Oregon Army National Guard AGR program, I have spent years serving my state and country. Unfortunately, Oregon's taxation of military retirement benefits is a major reason I am considering leaving the state after my service ends.

Oregon is one of the few states that fully taxes military retirement pay, making it financially challenging for veterans to remain here. Many of my fellow service members, like me, want to stay in Oregon—to continue contributing to our communities and supporting our families—but the financial strain caused by these taxes pushes us to look at other states that offer more favorable tax policies for retirees.

If HB 2050 passes, it would provide much-needed relief and encourage veterans to stay in Oregon, rather than taking our retirement income, skills, and community involvement elsewhere. This bill isn't just about money; it's about keeping experienced, dedicated individuals in our state, strengthening both our economy and our communities.

I urge you to support HB 2050 and give military retirees a reason to keep calling Oregon home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.