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On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2050

I am currently an active duty Soldier with 29 years of service. I intend to retire within the year. My current home state of record is Oregon. It is also my intent to move out of state once I retire to a state that is more economically friendly to government pensions. Passing this bill would greatly influence my decision to vacate Oregon upon retirement.

Not passing this bill puts Oregon at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to attracting and retaining military retirees. If Oregon wants to foster a veteran-friendly economy and prevent the loss of skilled, experienced retirees, it should pass this bill.

Military retirees bring extensive leadership, technical expertise, and experience to the civilian workforce. Many start second careers in public service, healthcare, law enforcement, and business. When Oregon taxes their pensions, it discourages these highly trained individuals from staying in the state. By making pensions tax-free, Oregon would incentivize veterans to live, work, and spend their money locally—strengthening the economy.

Veterans who remain in Oregon contribute significantly to local economies by buying homes, starting businesses, and spending their pension income on goods and services. By keeping more of their income in their pockets, these retirees would inject millions into the state economy, helping small businesses thrive and generating tax revenue through sales and property taxes, which Oregon needs.