



Representative Lamar Wise
Oregon House District 48

HB 4091 - Restricting Use & Deployment of Oregon National Guard...
Restricting Use & Deployment of Oregon National Guard for Certain Federal Missions

Good afternoon Chair and members of the committee. For the record, I'm Representative Lamar Wise from SE Portland and North Clackamas. I want to speak today about responsibility. Not abstract constitutional terms or broad principles but about the importance to emphasize the role that the Oregon National Guard has in serving the people of Oregon.

Across Oregon, families depend on the National Guard during our most vulnerable moments, whether that is wildfire season, ice storms, floods, or public health emergencies. As soon as disaster strikes Oregonians do not ask whether the Guard is available.

They assume it is. That assumption is rooted in trust: trust that our Guard exists first and foremost to protect and serve our communities here at home, especially in times of hardship. HB 4091 reinforces that trust which Oregonians place in the Oregon National Guard.

This bill makes it clear that Oregon will not facilitate or coordinate the deployment of our National Guard for federal law enforcement or immigration enforcement missions that fall outside of their core emergency response function. Simultaneously, it preserves the Guard's ability to respond to statewide emergencies and makes certain that mobilizations do not leave Oregon underprepared when we need them most.

This isn't about politics. It is about clarity of mission. This bill recognizes a simple truth: readiness at home must remain the main objective, the top priority.

HB 4091 does not eliminate cooperation with federal authorities in all aspects. Nor does it interfere with lawful federal authority. Instead, it sets restrictions on how state officials facilitate mobilization, and affirms that Oregon's Guard should not be deployed in ways that compromise emergency preparedness or community trust.

In doing this, the bill protects 3 things: the readiness of our Guard, the constitutional balance between military and civilian roles, and the confidence Oregonians have in the men and women who serve. This is a focused and principled approach. It ensures that when Oregonians call for help, the Guard is ready to answer. So for that,

I respectfully urge your support for HB 4091.