



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vermont State House

115 State Street

Montpelier, VT 05602

February 23, 2021

Robert H. Tower,
2584 King Road
Richford, Vermont 05476

Dear Colonel Tower:

Thank you for your service to our country and thank you for taking the time to contact my office. I wanted to personally respond to the thoughtful contact you made to my office and express my support for the legislation introduced in the House and Senate to exempt military retirement pay from state income taxation. I come from a family of veterans and feel particularly proud to be a Vermonter because of Vermont's tradition of service. Exempting retirement pay from state income taxation is one small way we can show our appreciation to veterans for their service and ensure financial security after retirement.

As you know, the Lt. Governor is not directly involved in the legislative process. That being said, I do have the ability to cast a tie-breaking vote in the Senate. If the opportunity arises, please know this legislation has my vote and support.

I wish you good health as we work together to ensure Vermont recovers stronger from this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly R. Gray".

Molly R. Gray
Lieutenant Governor of Vermont

802-828-2226

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@ltgovgray

Dear Ms Gray, Wow, here we go again! Hopefully, this legislative session will see the needs of our veterans and pass this bill. I am hopeful that you all will support this as it is desperately needed and long overdue. Below is a revised letter from my attempts to persuade State Representatives and Senators to support and pass similar legislation last year. I am told that the Senate has already read a Bill, S.12, a similar Bill is heading to the House, H.71. Please, make these Bills a priority for passage this session. The year 2020 and COVID-19 pandemic have created hardships for many Vermonters. Retired Vermont Veterans have also been affect and are struggling to make monthly payments. Passage of this Bill will assist them in making payments. Dear Honorable Vermont Representatives and Senators: I am contacting you to respectfully ask that you support S.21, An Act Relating to the Exemption of Military Retirement Pay from State Income Taxation. I am a retired veteran with over 25 years of service and have made Vermont my home since 1971. I served in Vietnam with the United States Marines in Quang Tri Province and completed my military service with the Vermont Army National Guard, I believe it is time that retired Veterans be granted this exception. Vermont continues to distinguish itself as having one of the highest rates of per capita military service. Unfortunately, Vermont is also notable for being one of only eight states that fully taxes military retirement pay. Due to this tax, many of those I served with immediately left Vermont after meeting their military retirement requirements, or they did not return after having served on active duty elsewhere. The majority of military retirees continue to work in civilian occupations after leaving the armed forces. Considering that Vermont is currently facing a significant population and workforce shortage, it is doubly unfortunate that our state is not doing what it can to incentivize our military community to remain here. With major military installations existing around the Northeast, Vermont has an opportunity to attract a diverse community of military retirees who would move here to live and work in our local communities. These veterans would bring with them desperately needed professional skills, like the emergency services backgrounds Vermont's leaders have identified as lacking in our rural towns. Additionally, the relatively low revenue gained by this tax would almost certainly be offset by the influx of military retirees who would pay other state taxes, while contributing to Vermont as valuable community members. Please consider the overwhelming benefit of retaining and attracting military retirees to Vermont - Support S.12! Respectfully, COL ROBERT H Tower, Retired 2584 King Road Richford, VT 05476 Phone: 802-848-3473 Mobile: 802-393-2928 Email: eeja4lddc@gmail.com