

February 25, 2019

Chair Fagan
Vice-Chair Heard
Members of the Senate Committee on Housing

RE: SB 595

The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) represents Oregon's 36 counties on a diversity of issues including taxation and affordable housing.

SB 595 aligns with AOC's principles in that our organization pursues initiatives that increase the supply of safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Affordable workforce housing is an issue that many counties face as they strive to support the housing needs of citizens who are experiencing increasing housing costs that do not keep pace with wages.

SB allows counties to use Transient Lodging Tax to address affordable workforce housing issues, based on a vote of locally elected officials. Allowing this additional local control is supported by AOC and allows for regional differences in need.

Sincerely,



Susan Morgan
Revenue Policy Manager
Association of Oregon Counties