

From: [Louise Shimmel](#)
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: SB595
Date: Friday, March 15, 2019 3:52:11 PM

I am writing to express opposition to Senate Bill 595 that would change the allocation of transient room tax receipts and allow their use for funding affordable housing. As a non-profit 'attraction' in Oregon, Cascades Raptor Center would prefer that the room tax funds – which are, after all, funded by visitors – be used as they were originally designed and promised to be: funding destination marketing. Tourism is a huge income generator for the state.

It is not appropriate to penalize a major economic driver for a housing situation that is a state-wide challenge and really has nothing to do with tourism. If anything, hotels are in competition with one economic aspect that seems to exacerbate the lack of affordable housing: vacation rentals and air B'nB's that do remove units from the housing stock, particularly along the coast, in major cities, and in recreation destinations.

We need to keep our promises to use transient room tax, collected at hotels, to attract visitors to hotels through destination marketing. Thank you.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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