

**From:** [Chris LaVoie](#)  
**To:** [LRO](#)  
**Subject:** SB 595 - Please leave tourism tax dollars alone  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2019 3:15:19 PM

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I run a small family business between Eugene and Bend in the mountains. We have a 5 vacation cabins and meeting space.

The tourism tax dollars are critical to helping our communities stay afloat. Keep the tax dollars going towards tourism promotion. It brings outside money to Oregon.

We can barely get by on thin margins as it is. Slashing tourism marketing will devastate small communities.

**Tourism creates jobs in rural areas - where housing is cheaper and in some places already in place and under used.**

Ideas to help bring on more affordable housing:

Make it easier for new homes/condos/apartments to be built.

Ideas:

- Help get local banks to fund small developers. Many small builders that thrived in the early 2000's can't get bank financing for projects today.
- Get more mid and luxury projects built - as new units are built to catch up with demand older units drop in value (filling the low income void). Building cheap low end housing just has the potential of ending up with depressed, slummy, undesirable neighborhoods.
- Allow or encourage more small units - by allowing granny flats / ADUs in residential zones, and/or not requiring as much parking for each unit in walkable, high density areas where public transportation is available.

Help provide more affordable housing with policies that encourage smart development by rethinking land use laws for the next generation.

- Smaller units
- Denser developments
- Walkable communities
- More Mixed Use

The reason we have a shortage of housing and prices are going up is because it is getting more difficult and expensive to build in most major cities along the I 5 corridor.

Instead of subsidizing projects - fix the system that is creating the shortfall and with a little goosing the market will go a long way to bringing it back in balance.

Sincerely,

Chris LaVoie  
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PS - If you all would like to get serious about looking at updating land use for the next generation, I would be happy to sit on a citizens advisory panel representing small rural towns in Oregon