March 18, 2019

The Honorable Mark Hass, Chairman Senate Finance and Revenue Committee 900 Court Street, NE | Oregon State Capitol Salem, OR

Dear Chairman Hass and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Newman and I thank you for the opportunity to represent Travel Lane County in opposition to SB595.

Visitors to local communities are Vital to local employers and employees. They rely on the tourism industry to keep jobs, pay their bills and have stabilized incomes. There are a Large number of Oregonians that rely on tourism and SB595 is a detriment to the people and the industry.

The tourism industry is a true partnership between local DMOs, local businesses, Regional Destination Management Organizations, and Travel Oregon – all of these entities work together to increase economic activity and create jobs in every corner of the state.

Oregon Destination Marketing Organizations work hard and offer assistance to bring visitors to local communities during the shoulder months (October – May). This helps employers, employees and their families that all make Oregon GREAT.

Tourism and Transient Lodging Tax bring business to more than hotels, resorts, restaurants, etc. Many local businesses such as venues, support industries, transportation, artists, guides, wineries and many others rely on visitors.

I encourage you to also be in opposition of SB595 for the best interest in Oregon, it's residents and the visitor industry.

Michael Newman In Business Media Board Member of Travel Lane County

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