



01-31-2020

Senator Hass, Chair  
Senate Committee on Revenue  
900 Court St., NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4047 Testimony and Support, State Transient Lodging Tax

Dear Chair Hass, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the Senate Revenue Committee:

I am writing today in support of HB 4047. South Coast Tours is a growing and successful eco-friendly tour business operating on Oregon's south coast from Coos Bay down to the CA border. We believe reducing the TLT from 1.8% to 1.5% would be a major mistake and a detriment to a segment of the Oregon economy that is growing year after year, tourism.

South Coast Tours has been partnering with both the state DMO in Travel Oregon and the coastal DMO the Oregon Coast Visitors Association on numerous projects. We have seen lots of other tour companies, motels, restaurants, and other visitor facing businesses benefit from these valuable tax dollars as well. Projects that support infrastructure improvements in outdoor recreation, collateral to better inform visitor experiences, stewardship messaging, granting programs, travel writer tours, media trips, global sales missions, conferences, and many other efforts have made our previously struggling coastal economy noticeably better.

As the coastal economy continues to transition from a solely natural resource harvesting economy to a more diverse and sustainable economy that includes visitation in combination with the traditional industries, these tax dollars go an extra long way. We truly need this support and South Coast Tours views the allowance of this sunset clause to go through as taking a step backwards when we need this support the most.

Please strongly consider how this may impact a recovering economy like we have on the coast. I urge you to support HB 4047.

Yours,

Dave Lacey,  
Owner, South Coast Tours