

Submitter: Mike Herron

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and  
Water

Measure: HB3159

VIPS Industries, Inc. is the developer, owner, and operator of the Phoenix Inn Suites hotels in Oregon and The Grand Hotels at Bridgeport and in Salem. VIPS opposes HB 3159.

HB 3159 abandons the agreement originally made between the lodging industry and the state on TLT's and the appropriate use of the revenue generated to support and promote the health and vitality of the tourism industry, its businesses and employees in Oregon. User-generated funds should be expended on activities directly supportive of the use. Much like gas taxes support transportation infrastructure and not unrelated but still important activities like historical preservation, or expansion of mental health services, user-generated taxes like TLT's should be used to directly support and promote the industries that generate the revenue.

If conservation is important to all Oregonians, and we believe it is, then ALL Oregonians should pay for it. Increasing the state TLT and siphoning 50% of it to uses that do not directly support tourism and the lodging industry is bad public policy that places the cost of a broad good on a narrow band of users/payers.

We urge you to vote against HB 3159.

Thank you