

Submitter: Donna Bleiler

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

I OPPOSE HB 2977 as a fun killer. Hotel rates are beyond the middle class and reducing the tax would probably bring in more than an increase just by making it more feasible for vacationing.

Oregon has nearly doubled the hotel lodging tax to fund Eugene sport programs, and now that the Olympics is over, that funding should be redirected. However, some legislators wish to expand the hotel tax to fund even more programs that appear completely unrelated to the hotel business. There have been controversies with Bend, Linn County and Salem for misusing their hotel tax dollars on unrelated expenses, now the legislature wants to do the same. Salem wanted to use hotel taxes to pay for library costs. This existing hotel tax would be in addition to local car rental taxes (Portland at 17%).

Other cities have not spent their tax. If cities don't need the tax to promote tourism to their cities, then the tax is too high already.