

February 21, 2025

Dear Members of the Committee:

My name is Jason Coleman and I am the Senior General Manager for my company's hotels in Lincoln City. Increasing the State Lodging Tax would be detrimental to the family-owned business that I work for, the families of my employees and to Lincoln City's collection of small businesses.

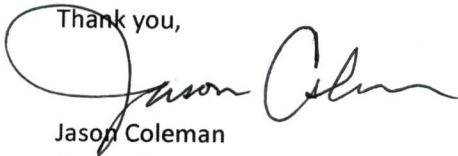
I oppose HB 2997, increasing the State Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) for species conservation.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department pulls in \$380 million dollars in revenue, whereas, the State Lodging Tax pulls in \$40 million.

The State Lodging tax was created specifically for Travel Oregon to promote our state and bring in tourists. Increasing this tax and diverting funds is incredibly offensive to me personally and everyone in the state who owns or operates hotels, restaurants and small businesses. The revenue from the State Lodging Tax brings in tourist who spend their money and keep people employed year-round so they can provide for their families during our busiest seasons and in the off season, it keeps small business in business and allow us to showcase our little piece of the world.

If the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife needs to generate more funds, they need to fish for it in someone else's revenue stream.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Coleman".

Jason Coleman
Senior General Manager
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