

EXPLORE TUALATIN VALLEY

February 21, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: **Oppose House Bill 2977**

Dear Chair Helm, Chair Owens and Members of the House Committee:

On behalf of Explore Tualatin Valley, I am writing to express our opposition to House Bill 2977, which proposes an increase in the statewide transient lodging tax (TLT).

This increase would put Oregon—particularly the Portland region—at a competitive disadvantage in attracting key visitor segments essential to our region’s economic recovery and long-term growth.

In Washington County, corporate travel is vital to the growth of our high-tech corridor. Higher travel costs will further slow travel, harming corporations, local lodging, and businesses and jobs reliant on these visitors.

Revitalizing Portland’s central core by attracting convention and meeting business is critical not only for the city but for Oregon’s overall economy. However, Portland already struggles to compete with similar cities for these events. Raising the transient lodging tax would only make this challenge worse by increasing costs for meeting planners and visitors, making Oregon a less attractive destination.

Additionally, this tax increase would place an undue financial burden on lodging operators, many of whom are small business owners still recovering from the prolonged impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Adding costs to an industry still rebounding will hinder Oregon’s tourism growth and slow economic recovery.

We urge you to oppose HB 2977 and instead consider alternative measures that support Oregon’s tourism industry without compromising our competitiveness or burdening local businesses.

Sincerely,



Dave Parulo
President & CEO

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