

Submitter: Richard D Mr Boyles
On Behalf Of: Merete Hotel Management
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

The statewide lodging tax was established to fund tourism promotion through the establishment and work of Travel Oregon as overseen by the Oregon Tourism Commission. The tax was initiated at the request of the hospitality industry and had industry support. There is no direct nexus between the purpose of the tax and the work of ODFW. ODFW's work is valuable to all Oregonians. If additional work needs to be funded, it should come through an expansion of ODFW's current income streams, not through an opportunistic attempt to expand and divert the tax established specifically and solely for the purpose of tourism promotion and destination management. Such an expansion and diversion would break the compact between the legislature and the hospitality industry entered into at the establishment of the tax, and undermine the industry's trust in government as a reliable partner.