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To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land use, Natural Resources and Water
From: Seth Sherry
Date: February 25, 2025
Subject: HR 2977 - Testimony in Opposition

Dear Chair Helm, Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Seth Sherry, and I am writing on behalf of Obie Companies, a leader in property development, hospitality, and community investment in Oregon. We appreciate the opportunity to express our strong opposition to HB 2977.

At Obie Companies, we understand the importance of balancing conservation efforts with economic sustainability. However, increasing the lodging tax would negatively impact local businesses, the tourism industry, and the jobs that depend on visitor spending. A higher lodging tax would make our region less competitive in attracting visitors, conferences, and major events—including those affiliated with Oregon State University—causing a ripple effect of economic strain on businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Furthermore, local businesses are already facing challenges due to the Pac-12 realignment, which has led to a decline in visitor spending.

We strongly urge you to vote against HB 2977. Instead of taking resources away from an industry that helps drive economic growth, we encourage exploring solutions that support small businesses and strengthen Oregon's communities without imposing additional financial burdens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Seth Sherry
Director of Development
Obie Companies