



February 25, 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

From: Deanna Palm, President and CEO of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Re: Opposition to House Bill 3062

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

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce urges you to **oppose HB 2977**, which would increase the statewide transient lodging tax (TLT). This tax hike would harm Oregon's tourism and hospitality industries, making our state less competitive for business travel, conventions, and leisure tourism—key drivers of economic growth in Washington County and beyond.

The TLT was established to fund the Oregon Tourism Commission, directly benefiting the industry that pays into it. Shifting these funds to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), which already has multiple revenue sources, is both inappropriate and unnecessary. Even ODFW's own constituency declined to support this funding increase, yet the department seeks to impose it on an industry still recovering from the pandemic.

Rather than increasing costs on businesses that fuel our local economies, we urge the legislature to explore alternative funding sources. **Please oppose HB 2977 to protect Oregon's economic recovery and tourism competitiveness.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deanna Palm'.

Deanna Palm
President & CEO

DeannaP@WCChamber.org