



March 3, 2025

The Honorable, Representative Daniel Nguyen
Chair
House Committee On, Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade
900 Court Street NE, H-283
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Testimony on HB 2171 Regarding Inequity in Transient Room Tax Allocation

Dear Chair, Rep. Daniel Nguyen, Vice Chair Rep. Ed Diehl and Committee Members,

I am writing to formally address concerns regarding the distribution of transient room tax (TRT) revenues. As the director of the Crook County Fairgrounds in Prineville Oregon, I dutifully collect, and remit State and local city transient room tax as required by law. However, despite contributing to this tax, The Fairgrounds and others in similar positions have not directly benefited from the programs, infrastructure, or marketing efforts funded by these revenues.

The purpose of the transient room tax is to support tourism-related activities and infrastructure that enhance visitor experiences and stimulate local economies. Yet, it has become increasingly evident that the distribution of TRT funds does not equitably reflect the contributions made by those who collect and remit the tax. All Fairgrounds across the state are fundamental to the tourism industry RV, Camping and lodging providers like myself are left without a say in or benefit from the tax revenue we help generate.

I respectfully request that the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade review the allocation of TRT funds and consider implementing a more equitable system that ensures lodging businesses receive appropriate support. This could include direct reinvestment into marketing, infrastructure improvements, or exemption from the program.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I welcome any opportunity to discuss potential solutions and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Casey Daly
Director Crook County Fairgrounds