

Heartfelt Hospitality on the Banks of the Fabulous Rogue River

March 17, 2025

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans Oregon State Legislature 900 Court St NE Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Opposition to HB 3556 – Relating to the use of local transient tax revenue.

Dear Representative Javadi, Representative Walters, Senator Weber, and Committee,

I own a small lodging property in Grants Pass. I write in opposition to HB 3556 concerning the use of Transient Lodging Tax funds.

I understand that the original purpose of the TLT was to generate revenue by attracting visitors to Oregon. It has done just that, at least doubling visitor spending in Oregon over the last 20 years.

I can testify that the advertising, and other ways that the TLT funds increase tourism and spending, have had a substantial impact on my business and thus, on the well-being of my community. The effect of a robust, vibrant, healthy Grants Pass, due in part to the incredible partnership of *Visit Grants Pass*, cannot be quantified only in dollars, though tourism spending speaks for itself. I believe the return on investment makes our community healthier, happier, more stable and sustainable and that is priceless. Please keep the TLT distribution as is. If passed, this bill could ultimately exacerbate the shortfall that it is intended to help.

Sincerely, Constance Palaia

> Constance Palaia, Kevin Marr, and Sylvia Marr – Innkeepers Motel Del Rogue 2600 Rogue River Highway Grants Pass, Oregon 97527 (541) 479-2111

www.moteldelrogue.com