

Submitter: Valerie Lovelace

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3556

Having served 9 years as a City Councilor through the beginnings of creating Visit Grants Pass, our nonprofit tourism agency run by a Board of Directors, I know how easy for city leaders to look for ways to fund infrastructure and public safety. I have also seen the importance of having a dedicated funding source for the promotion of tourism run by professionals in a community where tourism has become a major economic driver after the destruction of our logging economy. Without this money dedicated to tourism promotion, you will see an ensuing battle for these funds by people who do not understand how vital this industry is to our community. I have witnessed the positive impact Visit Grants Pass has had over the past 8 years at the same time I have witnessed the increased costs of Public Safety and infrastructure. If this bill passes you will see the slow demise of tourism promotion in small communities like ours struggling to become economically successful.