

Submitter: Karin Grecu

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3556

I am in support of HB 3556. There are so many things in Bend that are being used by tourists that could use more funding, such as trail maintenance, the extension and improvement of parking lots, improvement of bike paths and, really above all, the improvement of public transportation. It would be amazing to have frequent shuttles to Meissner in the winter or more frequent shuttles to Mt. Bachelor, which would also be a huge win for the tourists who often are here with rental vehicles that never have winter tires on them. Or maybe some funds could go to ODOT to have more plows out there in the winter. There should be a free shuttle again that picks up summer tube floaters in Drake park (not just the ones that paid Tumalo Creek) and more summer plays and concerts at locations other than Drake Park (to reduce congestion, maybe at Pine Nursery?).

On the flip side, having worked in advertising myself, it appears to me that Visit Bend has more money that they can spend in an efficient manner. Just ask people in San Francisco how often they've seen ads by visit Bend, 3 x frequency is enough! This is just a waste of funds. If Visit Bend and other tourism promoting entities are concerned about a reduction in funds, I suggest they focus their efforts on the low seasons as during the high seasons we are already getting more tourists than the city can handle. This is evidenced by the overcrowding in the summer that lead to the hiking permit system, the many days that we have bumper to bumper traffic going to Mt Bachelor and the many winter days that Mt Bachelor parking fills up completely.