

March 20, 2025

RE: Opposition to HB 3556

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans:

My name is Randy Joss and I am writing you as a former board member of Visit Corvallis and the Albany Visitors Association and someone who helps support local Oregon events in opposition to HB 3556. The proposed expansion of (TLT) under HB 3556 to include "tourism-related services" like fire, police, and water infrastructure would significantly threaten the tourism industry. Currently, these funds are used for tourism promotion and development, supporting marketing efforts, events, and facilities that attract visitors. This helps to increase future revenue from these funds.

Changing how these funds are allocated to include essential services will severely affect the ability to market tourism, host events, and maintain attractions that draw tourists. This shift would lead to decreased visitors, lower revenue for local businesses, and reduce tourism's overall economic impact. The tourism industry relies on these funds to remain competitive. Also, the tourism industry often helps fund advertising to promote events and festivals that locals and visitors enjoy. Their budgets are not that large, to begin with. The TLT was set up for marketing, not funding essential services. Reallocating them will have a long-term negative effect. I hope that this proposed legislation will not be passed. Keep tourism strong.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Randy Joss
Account Executive-KEZI 9 TV