

Submitter: Andrea Meyer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3962

I manage a hotel and restaurant in the Columbia River Gorge. Our town is currently (and had been for over a year now) under attack by thieves that are well aware we have limited police coverage in town, and none of those hours are after dark, or on the weekends when our visitors are most active and vulnerable. We had the worst summer ever last year in terms of car break ins and property theft, I wrote letters to the sheriff and the mayor begging for help, no one responded, no one returned my calls.

Our property took a big hit both publicly and financially because there is no help. People want to feel safe when they travel, and funding public safety is huge to sustainable tourism. We have long time guests that will never return to the Gorge because they were victims and the Hood River county sheriff told them when they called to report the crime they don't have funding for more coverage in rural parts, or at the trail heads and points of interest in Hood River County, visiting those places is "at your own risk".

I object to the statement that "Public Safety and Community infrastructure" are UNRELATED Services. The tourists put more of a strain to the infrastructure and public safety then residents of the community.