

Dear Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB3962, a bill that I believe poses significant challenges to the hospitality and tourism sectors, which are critical to our state's economy and community.

Our industry plays a pivotal role in Oregon's economic framework, contributing substantially to local revenue and providing employment to thousands of residents. It is essential to recognize that any legislation impacting this sector reverberates not just through businesses but also affects the employees, their families, and the communities reliant on tourism dollars.

HB3962 would impose restrictive measures that could hinder our ability to maintain competitiveness and appeal as a premier travel destination. The proposed regulations threaten to increase operational burdens, leading to reduced service capabilities and potentially higher costs for visitors. At a time when the industry is recovering from the impacts of past economic challenges, such measures could deter the progress made and stall future growth.

Furthermore, the bill may inadvertently dissuade travelers from choosing Oregon as a destination, opting instead for regions with more favorable conditions for both businesses and visitors. This would not only diminish our state's allure but also curtail the economic benefits garnered from tourism activities.

I urge you to consider the broader implications of HB3962 and its potential to undermine the vibrancy and resilience of our hospitality and tourism sector. Let us work towards legislative solutions that support, rather than restrict, one of Oregon's vital economic engines.

Thank you for considering the perspectives of those directly engaged in this crucial industry. I hope you will protect the interests of the businesses and individuals who are the backbone of our local economies.

Sincerely,

Shawna Smith
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