



May 6, 2025

To: House Committee on Revenue Oregon State Legislature

From: Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce

Re: Opposition to House Bill 2977

Dear Representatives, Chaichi, Gamba, Hudson, Nosse, Walters

On behalf of the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce (BACC) with 618 members and more than 6000 businesses in Beaverton, I write today to express our strong opposition to HB 2977. This legislation would divert essential Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenue away from its intended purposes, supporting visitor services and economic development—and instead allocate it to support wildlife conservation. While conservation is an important issue, it should be funded through appropriate, dedicated revenue sources rather than at the expense of tourism-related businesses and organizations.

The BACC relies on TLT funding to provide critical support for our visitor centers, distribute essential travel information, and enhance the experience of those who visit our communities. These efforts not only benefit local businesses but also drive economic growth that extends far beyond the hospitality sector.

Our business communities are still recovering from the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and tourism funding is vital to their continued stability and success. Further reducing TLT allocations to Chambers of Commerce and destination marketing organizations would significantly hinder our ability to support businesses that depend on a strong visitor economy.

As one of the largest Chambers in Washington County, we urge you to reject HB 2977 and protect the integrity of TLT funding. Doing so will ensure that these dollars continue to serve their intended purpose – strengthening local economies and supporting the businesses that make Oregon a premier destination.

Respectfully,
Alicia M. Bermes, IOM, MA
President/CEO Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce