



P.O. Box 1026
Roseburg, OR 97470
541.672.2648

RoseburgChamber.com

May 6, 2025

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

On behalf of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the businesses, organizations and individuals we represent throughout Douglas County, I respectfully request you oppose HB 2977, which proposes a statewide increase in Oregon's transient lodging tax (TLT).

Increasing the statewide tax would make Oregon less competitive for business and leisure travel. Oregon's statewide TLT was originated with the intent to reinvest those visitor-generate dollars back into tourism promotion and related investments to grow that sector of Oregon's economy. Since inception, this investment of TLT dollars has successfully increased visitor numbers and incentivized visitor spending in our local communities. The expansion of this industry sector has created employment opportunities, entrepreneurship, small business development and growth of local economies, while increasing state revenue.

Oregon's statewide TLT was created to fund the Oregon Tourism Commission, with its intent to directly benefit the industry that pays into the fund. Increasing the statewide tax from 1.5% to 2.5% puts Oregon at a competitive disadvantage, with added adverse impact to rural communities working to grow as visitor destinations. Diverting funds away from the OTC and the intended purpose to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which has a variety of revenue sources, is misguided and unnecessary. Wildlife conservation should be funded by other avenues that don't adversely impact tourism.

For 20 years there have been numerous attempts to pilfer TLT funds away from the core purpose. We respectfully request you lead with the same wisdom of your predecessors and vote "No" on HB 2977. Please protect the state's TLT program as the economic driver it is for our state and local communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DOUGLAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM
President & CEO



*To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.
To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.*