

Submitter: Erin Skaar  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3962

Chair Nathanson and Committee Members,

My name is Erin Skaar and I am a Tillamook County Commissioner. I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of HB3962-2. Tillamook County has a strong tourism economy and supports these efforts to ensure that our visitors, and our residents, have all of the critical services that they need. This bill is an option for communities to use their local knowledge to best spend the resources they receive.

As tourism has grown in our small county over the past 10 years, we have struggled to provide the critical public safety services that are needed to handle the influx of visitors. The year-round population of Tillamook County is ~28,000 people. On a busy weekend in the summer we can experience daily populations of over 100,000. This creates a challenge for us in responding to all of the needs related to public safety that occur. Our tax base is barely adequate to hire enough deputies to respond to vehicle accidents, crimes, and lost people for our population, and is wholly inadequate to respond to those events for the influx we receive.

We do not need to further promote the Oregon Coast to visitors but we do need to be able to manage the needs of those who come. In Tillamook County we would use them to ensure visitors receive the needed public safety services while visiting. Please support the passage of HB3962-2 to provide the options for communities to use local knowledge to best use the resources they receive.

Thank you,  
Erin Skaar, Tillamook County Commissioner