OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

J O I N . S E R V E . P R O T E C T .

PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: **House Revenue Committee**

From: Sheriff Matt Phillips, Clatsop County Sheriff
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Date: May 8, 2025

Re: **HB 3962 – Testimony in Support**
Transient Lodging Tax – Addressing Public Safety Challenges

Chair Nathanson and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Matt Phillips. I am the Clatsop County Sheriff, and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police in strong support of HB 3962. This bill is critical to ensuring that communities impacted by tourism can maintain safe and sustainable environments for both residents and visitors.

Oregon's tourism industry draws millions of visitors annually, providing significant economic benefits across the state. However, the influx of tourists also places immense strain on public safety resources in communities that must respond to increased calls for service, higher arrest rates, more traffic-related incidents, and added pressure on local jail capacity. The burden of maintaining public safety in high-tourism areas falls largely on local law enforcement, often without sufficient funding to meet these growing demands. Clatsop County has the second highest per capita rate of tourism in the state with documented and growing service impacts. Simply put, our tax base that supports roughly 40,000 residents is not sufficient to support seasonal population of more than 120,000.

HB 3962 provides a necessary solution by allowing Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenue more flexibility to be used in support of tourism impacted services and help these communities manage the increased public safety challenges associated with tourism. This legislation will not only enhance public safety but also create a more secure and welcoming environment for visitors and residents alike.

For these reasons, OSSA and OACP strongly encourage your support of HB 3962. Thank you for your consideration and commitment to keeping Oregon's communities safe.