

Submitter: Jeff Cloninger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 2977, which seeks to increase Oregon's statewide Transient Lodging Tax (TLT). While I support responsible funding for conservation efforts, this tax increase places an undue burden on Oregon's hospitality industry, which is still recovering from economic challenges.

Key Concerns:

Competitive Disadvantage: Higher lodging costs may deter visitors, making Oregon less attractive compared to neighboring states.

Impact on Businesses & Tourism: The hospitality sector is already facing labor shortages and inflation. Increasing lodging taxes could further strain businesses and reduce visitor spending.

Misalignment with Tourism Funding Principles: Lodging taxes were originally designed to support tourism promotion, not fund unrelated agencies.

Rather than increasing the lodging tax, I urge the legislature to explore alternative funding mechanisms that distribute costs equitably and align with the agency's beneficiaries.

I respectfully request that you vote NO on HB 2977 to protect Oregon's tourism industry and ensure fair tax policies that support economic growth.