

As a small hotel operator, **I OPPOSE** House Bill 2977 which would increase transient lodging taxes (TLT) to be used by Oregon's State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Recovering Oregon's Wildlife Fund.

I have hiked the entire Oregon section of the Pacific Crest Trail, as well as many of Oregon's other trail systems. I enjoy Oregon's wildlife, flora, and fauna, and am in favor of protecting such.

However, increasing Oregon's TLT for such a purpose is not appropriate.

I do not believe that the bill will protect the stability of tourism revenues as projected for a variety of reasons.

- For our small hotel business, most of our guests are fellow Oregonians, traveling less than 2 hours to our destination. Simple economics shows that as prices increase, including taxes, demand decreases. This bill thereby decreases the stability of tourism revenues.
- Most of our travelers do not have a large impact on environment. Our average room nights per booking are 1.36 nights, which means our guests take little time to enjoy the local fish, wildlife, and habitats, and future revenues are unlikely to be impacted by restoring or maintaining such.
- As the language in the bill points out, population growth, development, and climate change are the biggest culprits in creating a need for the changes of Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitats. Therefore, these industries, not lodging facilities, should be the main sources of providing revenue for the restoration, not lodging facilities.
- Additionally, those who largely take advantage of the natural resources, should be charged appropriately for the usage of such which would include those who fish, hunt, and impact the existing habitats such as hikers, OHV users, skiers, etc.

As a hotelier, I believe that HB2977 is being proposed because of the convenience of attaching to an already increasing lodging tax, making it easier than developing the support among Oregonians to develop appropriate new taxes paid by all Oregon's citizens to support the Oregon State Department of Fish and Wildlife desires.

Please consider the irresponsibility of allowing the lodging industry, which has suffered tremendously over the past few years due to governmental impact related to COVID, to bear the brunt of another new project for which it has neither the ability to solve, nor has been the cause of.

Sincerely,

Ron Moore
CEO/President
Hoaglan Properties, Inc.
River House Inn, a Baymont by Wyndham, Super 8 by Wyndham (Florence, OR; Salina/Scenic Hills, UT)