

As a small hotel operator, **I OPPOSE** House Bill 3962, which changes how transient lodging taxes (TLT) can be allocated.

First, I find it underhanded, and political gamesmanship, that the language and premise of House Bill 3556 which did not pass through committee, has now reappeared as HB3962.

Second, as a hotelier, I believe the entire purpose of the TLT is being undermined, not because the uses of TLT money is inappropriate, but because Congress would rather take money from an existing tax structure benefiting all Oregonians through tourism promotion, than approve new taxes which best place the costs on those who will most benefit. And unfortunately, TLT is collected only from a small portion of all of Oregon tourism activities, lodging, which means that it doesn't have the capability to solve all of a city, county, or states financial troubles.

I am pretty sure that most Oregonians would agree public safety, water, wastewater, transportation, and recreation would benefit from more revenue sources. However, use of the TLT for these purposes is not in the best interest for local economies.

- Hotels cause very little drain on public safety resources. In over 30 years of being a lodging operator on the Oregon coast, on average, public safety resources have been used less than once per year. According to local law enforcement officials, unhoused individuals, who account for quite a bit of their time, are often considered tourists if they come from more than 50 miles away. Hardly, a reason to tax lodging guests more money.
- Far more money is spent by our hotel guests on local shopping, dining, and attending local events than they pay for their hotel stay. Lodging provides guests to provide a significant boost to the local economy, which would decrease if promotion dollars from the TLT were less available. HB3962 decreases money for tourism promotion and harms local economies.
- Lodging guests use less water, and wastewater, have far fewer transportation and enjoy recreation than local citizens. Put the financial burden on the users, not on one small sector that significantly adds to the local economy.

As a hotelier, I believe that HB3962 has been stuffed with language from a bill that has already been defeated in its original committee.

This bill will take away dollars which support the local economy by promoting tourism. It will also provide services to citizens who are not willing to share in the costs for those things which benefit them more than anyone else.

Tourism, and specifically the lodging industry, has suffered tremendously since the COVID outbreak. Every single dollar spent on tourism promotion allows our local economies to recover.

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)