

Submitter: Hannah Buschert

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Thank you for considering my comments on this matter. I am writing in opposition to House Bill 2977.

Although I currently work in the hospitality industry as a third-generation hotelier, I also hold an advanced degree in Natural Resource Management and have a career history working in state wildlife agencies. So, I do have sympathy for the financial struggles that the agency is facing and understand the importance of funding this important work. However, this is not the right way to go about it. Taxing the hospitality industry is brought up again and again for any financial shortfalls in this state and that is not right. I believe that funding should come from those who benefit from the resource and when it comes to our state's fish, wildlife, and habitat – that's all of us.

Please stop this continual over taxation of the hospitality industry. I am not going to make the argument about "high taxes will not make us competitive in the tourism landscape", because that has been said. But instead, I will implore you to be creative and appeal to the people of our state. If they want to protect and conserve our natural resources, I believe in our citizens and that they will do the right thing. It is up to our elected officials to advocate on behalf of our state and its people.

Thank you for your consideration,

Hannah Buschert  
Sixth-generation Oregonian