

Submitter:

Thomas Busse

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

I do not understand the relationship between transient lodging and species conservation. If the state wants to fund species conservation, it should do so out of the general fund as part of the biennial budgeting process, and the legislature should follow the direction of the Governor in making an appropriation for that purpose. This bill is simply bad government budgeting.

The transient lodging tax is unique in that it is usually not paid by residents. Same with the Lottery. If the lodging tax was to be raised for special purposes, a better use would be to protect Arts funding, which is related to lodging because arts drive tourism. Such a funding arrangement also avoids residents being forced to tax themselves for arts they do not agree with or find offensive.