

Submitter:

M J Basti

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3962

I support HB 3962. Even in the midst of economic uncertainty people are traveling. I travel weekly between Astoria and Florence. I see golf course, eateries, shops, markets, Parks and tourist attractions with waiting lines. Highway 101 is heavily traveled with visitors and RVs including fishing boats, kayaks and bicycles. Timber revenue is down and it is uncertain what the future holds for schools, counties and cities dependent on timber revenue. Balanced budgets require municipal and county leadership to be resourceful in finding ways to continue to pay for county services. Many of the services are state mandated and public safety is a essential to the quality of life for local property owners and visitors. Many of the coastal cities and counties which are comprised of some of the most rural and lower income population cannot afford increase property taxes. Property owners are aging and often on fixed incomes with little to no financial safety net.

I strongly believe we all should pay for the services we need and use and that includes public safety, search and rescue and public parks. Counties and cities must have the flexibility in using the TLT taxes to balance their budgets. Tillamook county is transparent in how TLT monies are used. Many safety and accessibility needs have been addressed with TLT funds.

I strongly urge the House Committee on Revenue to allow the counties to use a greater share of the new and increased TLT taxes AND to EXPAND the use of these new and increased TLT monies to support public safety, financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities for water, waste water, transportation and recreation. Please implement HB 3962. The list of expanded services are needed by visitors and local residents, often at the same time.