

Submitter: Jeff McBrayer
On Behalf Of: Communities of Netarts and Oceanside
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3962

I am the Fire Chief for Netarts-Oceanside Fire District. The District has been tracking visitor / tourist contacts for over seven years. I have provided the Tillamook County Fire Defense Board with five years of statistics showing that over 40% of our call volume (EMS, Fire and Rescue) directly involves visitors / tourists. Allowing these funds to be used for Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services would literally save lives. I was stunned and saddened to see so much opposition from hospitality providers, when this money would be used to directly benefit their customers. As an example, Netarts Bay has one of the highest fatality rates of any waterway in Oregon. 90% of our water rescues are for visitors / tourists. We are attempting to build a rescue boat station at Netarts Bay to reduce our response times to these water rescues. The funds from transient lodging tax would go directly for lifesaving efforts of visitors / tourists. PLEASE support additional funding for Emergency Services. Respectfully submitted, Jeff McBrayer - Fire Chief / Paramedic.