

Marcia Kelley

Salem, OR

HB 3962-2 Support

HB 2977-2 Support

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters and members of the Committee.

My name is Marcia Kelley, and I am submitting testimony on these bills because of both my 30 years as a special district local elected official and my 20 plus years as a travel agent. While an agent I worked with clients planning events for regional and national scope.

While making arrangements for meetings, the clients were interested in not only the cost for participants but the destination amenities, the overall ease of transportation to the location, ease of local transportation and the meeting facilities. While price is a condition it is only one condition.

For HB 3962-2 diverting some of the money from local tourism taxes to local support for activities impacted by tourism should make the location a more attractive destination. As the Short-Term Rental has spread tourists into areas of locales not designed for tourists, needs change.

For HB the sponsor made the need for funding wildlife conservation by the addition of an additional 1 percent tax statewide in a convincing manner.

The “sky is falling” response by the destination and the ORLA is not convincing.

First of all, Oregon does not have a state sales tax which is attractive for incidental expenses. Given our diversity of other amenities, the beach, the mountains, the parks and arts there are plenty of additional amenities to attract visitors.

In over 20 years I rarely had a client who asked what the sales taxes would be for accommodation. And let’s put this in perspective.

My spouse and I often travel for family events. So, a few of our recent trips highlight the fees associated with accommodation.

Chicago visitors can expect to pay between 21-24 percent on accommodations including a 6.35% sales tax which would also be charged on other purchases.

The San Francisco area in Millbrae a 14% tax plus 4.75 fee per day for tourism.

Chicago airport area hotel 17.4% tax.

Our destination next month for a family wedding is Toronto. We will be paying 21% tax on accommodation.

In conclusion, I do not find the opponents' arguments compelling.

I urge your support of both bills to provide more flexibility and resources for the proponents.

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