



June 23, 2025

Re: HB 3962 Opposition

Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McClane, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

Dear Chair Meek--

It was a privilege to sit with members of the House Revenue Committee, with other legislators and industry advocates, at the work sessions for HB 3962 over the past couple of weeks. While I oppose this imperfect legislation, I truly appreciated being included.

I share my opposition to the proposed current HB 3962 and its -14 amendment, but not for the reasons you might think. I believe this proposed solution to a fairly narrow issue in a specific region of the state will ultimately cause more problems than it solves--problems that will be very difficult to address once Pandora's Box is open with local use of TLT.

I oppose HB 3962, as it is, because I think tourism can, and should, do better. We can do better in working with all of our local partners across the state, and involve our DMOs, in a larger conversation with the goal of reaching a compromise bill for the next legislative session. HB 3962 is not ready for prime time. We can do better. We need one more session.

I have seen, and appreciate, legislators' patience with our industry's opposition. All of those economic development arguments in support of funding destination marketing

organizations are 100% true. We generate jobs and tax revenue in a very significant way for the state of Oregon. And yet, as it has been said, "times change." I hear you.

I have listened to our colleagues on the North Coast and the challenges they have faced. We have also seen ballot measures asking for TLT increases in Tillamook County, so visitors pay more local expenses, be voted down. While in the room it sometimes seems like there is consensus, we are not there. I will encourage my tourism industry colleagues to understand we need to work together with our legislators and city and county partners to devise a better system.

Of note in the house vote on this measure, support for this measure seems to be located in a very narrow geography—and many House members from more rural parts of the state strongly opposed this measure to reduce funding for their local tourism organizations. There is not agreement across the state on this issue—we can all do better. I believe we can do it at the next legislative session.

Thank you in advance for opposing passage of HB 3962 at this time—and for asking the groups to come together one more time to create a more bi-partisan solution we can all agree to.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert Hackett", with a stylized, cursive script.

Robert Hackett

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