

To: Oregon Senate Subcommittee on Finance and Revenue

From: Terrance Bichsel-Owner Rivertide Suites Hotel Seaside, OR

Date: June 23, 2025

Subject: House Bill 3962

Please carefully consider my comments and perspective on HB 3962.

We are a small business owning and operating a Hotel in a small Oregon Coast City (Seaside). We have owned/operated the Hotel for 18+ years and weathered the Great Recession (2008-2011), Covid (2020-2023) and many weather-related events over the years. Our staff of 40+ employees are hard-working, dedicated professionals who “show-up” every day to serve our guests, predominantly Oregonians vacationing on the Coast.

HB 3962 is a Betrayal of Trust and Cooperation. The legislature, in the early 2000’s, regulated the collection of Transient Lodging Taxes (TLT) so as to preserve the jobs and the health of our businesses throughout Oregon. Without a statewide sales tax, the TLT has always been an easy target for lawmakers and local government attacks in order to steal money intended for the preservation and health of our lodging businesses. Local Government already controls the majority of the TLT in Seaside and throughout many Oregon cities. The local city government in Seaside controls approximately 70% of the TLT collected (as the TLT in Seaside predates the statewide law). **Passage of HB 3962 will effectively gut the marketing and promotion needed to preserve hundreds of thousands of jobs throughout the state of Oregon.** This betrayal will weaken an industry that has already been severely damaged by Covid. Look no further than Portland if you need proof of the current condition.

I not only urge you to vote NO on HB 3962, I consider the effects of HB 3962 (if passed) to be tantamount to an assault on an industry in Oregon that is barely surviving as it is. Please give close consideration of those thousands of jobs that will be at risk if this bill passes giving local governments even more control of funds that were intended for marketing and promotion. That was the promise that was made in the early 2000 period when the industry supported the current law.

Thank you,

Terrance J Bichsel

Rivertide Suites Hotel

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