

Submitter: Shaun Wagner
On Behalf Of: All hospitality workers
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3962

Written Testimony on House Bill 3962
Submitted by Shaun Wagner
Resident of Astoria, Oregon
Manager – Lodging Operations in Seaside & Cannon Beach
Clatsop County Planning Commissioner

Dear Members of the Oregon House of Representatives,

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to House Bill 3962.

As someone who manages hotels in Seaside and Cannon Beach, I see firsthand how vital tourism is to our North Coast communities. It's not a seasonal benefit—it's a cornerstone of our local economy, supporting jobs, small businesses, and essential tax revenue.

HB 3962 would significantly weaken the impact of the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) by allowing the 70% portion—currently dedicated to tourism promotion and development—to be spent on infrastructure and public safety. While those needs are real, pulling these funds away from tourism undercuts the very system that makes those services possible.

The existing 70/30 split has provided stable and effective support for Destination Management Organizations (DMOs) and long-term tourism planning. This bill risks creating annual funding battles and uncertainty for the tourism sector that many communities rely on.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 3962 and preserve the integrity of the TLT. Protecting these funds means protecting the economic health of Oregon's travel-driven communities.

Sincerely,
Shaun Wagner
Astoria, Oregon
Hotel Manager – Seaside & Cannon Beach
Clatsop County Planning Commissioner