

June 23, 2025

Committee: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLane, and honored members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

As a lodging operator, **I OPPOSE** House Bill 3962, which changes how transient lodging taxes (TLT) can be allocated.

From a hotelier perspective, I do not believe there has been careful consideration about how this bill will impact the lodging economy specifically, and tourism and local economies in general. The economic benefit of tourism is critical for many of our cities and counties, however, only a very small percent of that tourism business is taxed through the TLT.

It is nearly impossible to get support for new taxes, especially sales taxes, in the state of Oregon, so the only existing "sales tax" is consistently looked at the easiest path to raise new money.

Some key points:

1. Transient lodging taxes (TLT) are levied on a very small sector of the tourism industry.
2. More than 90% of our guests come from within Oregon, so the TLT is basically a "sales tax."
3. Access to TLT funds is not uniform throughout the state.
4. We do not track whether TLT funds are being spent according to current guidelines.
5. Economic troubles within communities are being caused by overnight guests.

The purpose of the TLT was to provide some funds from a very small portion of all tourism, to increase tourism within the state of Oregon. If this is no longer desired, then there really is no reason to have any TLT at all.

However, the purpose of HB 3962, is to use a very small, but only available "sales tax", to increase unrestricted funds to our local governments. Some may believe tourism is no longer needed within the state, if that is the case then abolish the TLT and get the local citizens to pay for their needs through property and other taxes.

I do not believe careful enough consideration has been given to allow this bill to go forward. Very little interaction between representatives and key stakeholders within the lodging and tourism industry has taken place to fully understand the impact of what changes to the TLT will do to the state's vital tourism industry, what will be gained, and more importantly what will be the unintended long-term consequences.

I urge you to also oppose this bill, and look for better ways to address the needs of communities throughout the entire state.

Sincerely,

Ron Moore  
CEO/President

Hoagland Properties, Inc.

River House Inn, a Baymont by Wyndham, Super 8 by Wyndham (Florence, OR; Salina/Scenic Hills, UT)