

Submitter: David Wall
On Behalf Of: Mr Oregon OPPOSES HB 3962
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3962

I OPPOSE [HB 3962 A].

The Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) is nothing more than a "legalized shakedown" of Tourists.

Tourists will come to a Locale because it is in their interests to do so.

[HB 3962 A] is one of the biggest scams to come out of Legislature this season.

Sure, municipalities may say they are going to fund Police, Fire and or other Emergency Services from their TLT revenues to safeguard Tourists. Who is going to 'Audit' these Municipalities? No one is listed.

Financing Municipal Tourism Debt as seen in the TEXT of [HB 3962 A], "... (4) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of this section, a unit of local government that is financing debt with local transient lodging tax revenues on November 26, 2003, must continue to finance the debt until the retirement of the debt, including any refinancing of that debt..."

..." (b) Fund city or county services, whether emergency or nonemergency services, provided directly by the city or county or by a special district in lieu of the city or county; or

(c) Finance or refinance the debt of tourism-related facilities and pay reasonable administrative costs incurred in financing or refinancing that debt, provided that:

(A) The net revenue may be used for administrative costs only if the unit of local government provides a collection reimbursement charge; and

(B) Upon retirement of the debt, the unit of local government reduces the tax by the amount by which the tax was increased to finance or refinance the debt."

What barriers to tourism related municipal debt increases are there? There is NONE.

The above is bad enough but where is the State budget allocation and identification of funding source(s) to make sure the State of Oregon is not "played like a fiddle?"

David S. Wall

Mr. Oregon Concurs and says, "Who needs the Mafia when municipalities have the

new version of the TLT?"