

Submitter: Lauren Hesse
On Behalf Of: HB 3962
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3962

Dear Committee Members:

Our rural Lane County community of the Upper Siuslaw Region depends on tourism to support much of our economy. Last year, tourism brought in 691 million dollars in non-TRT tax alone, and that money in many ways supports infrastructural costs.

If you are unsure about whether raising TRT taxes will hurt this industry, let me just share my bed and breakfast struggles for this year's inflationary economy. I am a co-proprietor of a bed and breakfast in the tiny town of Mapleton that is just 18 miles from coastal Florence. Last year we brought in the largest revenue since we opened in 2016. But this summer, we have fewer than 1/4 the number of guests compared to any of the last 4 years.

I firmly believe that increasing TRT rates will further impact this part of tourism income. If folks can't afford to eat out, to get fuel for travel, and to stay overnight, they will not come. In fact, 1/2 of the visitors we've had this year came from out of the country. Americans are traveling less due to high costs.

Please vote no on HB 3962.

Thank you,

Lauren Hesse
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