

Submitter: Chase Santillanes

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3962

Dear Members of the Revenue Committee,

I'm writing to urge you to vote NO on HB 3962—especially for Bend, where the stakes couldn't be higher.

Right now

65% of lodging taxes are unrestricted; 35% fuel tourism promotion and facilities that fill our hotels, trails and event venues.

Under HB 3962

Unrestricted jumps to 68.65%, cutting tourism funding to 31.35%.

Here's the kicker: slashing marketing and facility dollars doesn't just hurt tourism but it hurts overall tax revenue. Fewer visitors mean fewer room nights, lower restaurant and retail sales, and ultimately smaller lodging-tax collections. Now both the city and tourism programs end up with less money to spend.

Outdoor seasons go quiet when bikes and skis stay in the garage.

Conferences disappear without promotion resulting in vacant meeting rooms = vacant hotel beds.

Local jobs evaporate as shops, guides and servers see less foot traffic.

If Bend's appeal fades, every stakeholder loses: the city sees lower tax receipts, tourism programs can't reinvest, and small businesses struggle. Let's not undercut the very engine that funds our trails, restrooms, festivals and event center.

Please oppose HB 3962 and protect Bend's tourism fund, secure its future revenue, and keep our mountain town humming.

Chase Santillanes