

Submitter: Matthew Bernard
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

To Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

My name is Matthew Bernard, and I'm the General Manager of The Porter Hotel in Downtown Portland. I'm writing to strongly oppose HB 2977.

This bill proposes an 83% increase to the statewide Transient Lodging Tax, raising Portland's total lodging tax burden to 17.25%. That would make us the most expensive lodging market on the West Coast, even higher than San Francisco and Austin. As someone who manages a full-service hotel in the heart of the city, I can tell you this would immediately impact our ability to attract group business, events, and leisure travelers.

HB 2977 directly threatens jobs, small business partnerships, and the fragile recovery of our tourism economy. It would:

Push rate-sensitive travelers and planners to more affordable cities

Hurt the very communities, including rural Oregon, that rely on tourism to survive

Divert lodging tax revenue away from its intended purpose: supporting tourism and economic development

Shift the financial burden for non-tourism-related programs onto our industry, which is already dealing with rising costs and a slower return to pre-COVID performance

Our hotel supports hundreds of jobs, dozens of local vendors, and countless small businesses that rely on guest traffic. HB 2977 undermines all of that by asking us to pay more without seeing any benefit.

Please vote NO on HB 2977 and protect Oregon's hospitality sector from unnecessary harm.

Sincerely,
Matthew Bernard
General Manager
The Porter Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton
Portland, OR