

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

As Oregon's largest employer of marginalized citizens, with the broadest geographic economic impact, the hospitality & tourism industry needs TOT taxes to self-fund its own promotion, development and sustainability efforts since it is routinely ignored by State agencies. I implore you to research the last time that the Oregon Business Plan, Oregon Employment Department, Workforce Talent & Development Boards, Oregon Department of Ed or any other state agency, prioritized or funded this industry.

Meanwhile, we employ and serve more Oregon citizens, residents and visitors than the other industries with sophisticated lobbies and union representation. The value of Oregon's travel products, services and experiences are world-renowned providing the State with a comparative advantage to earn revenues from jurisdictions outside the State making us a larger and growing export industry--one, I might add, that does so while not extracting natural resources.

It's time to match your rhetoric with your actions. Stand for the marginalized citizens; the small business entrepreneurs; the communities rural and urban and; the natural resources that fuel sustainable and significant State GDP growth and taxbase receipts that grow a larger pie for services that contribute to diversifies, resilient Oregon communities.

In other words, get out of the way and let the industry deliver its benefits. Surely, we'll do better than the results we have come to expect from municipal governments whose taxbases increase every year without increased services or improved results to match. Perhaps local government should look to themselves for improvements before asking for more money from industry that already delivers many of the benefits these politicians campaign on and fail to deliver.