

Submitter:

Steve DeAngelo

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB2977

?? It makes Oregon less competitive

Even a modest tax increase could push visitors to lower-cost destinations. Portland's total lodging tax would rise to 17.25%, putting it above San Francisco and Austin — and at the top of West Coast competitors. This directly threatens hotel bookings, meetings, events, and restaurant traffic.

??? It threatens small and rural economies

Many communities across Oregon depend on tourism as an economic lifeline. Higher lodging costs could reduce demand and strain local businesses that rely on visitor spending year-round.

?? It's an unfair shift in responsibility

The programs this tax aims to fund do not benefit the tourism industry — and even ODFW's own constituents declined to pay for them. It's fiscally irresponsible and ethically wrong to ask hospitality businesses to carry the load for state agencies that already have access to General Fund dollars, federal support, and license revenue.