

Submitter: Scottie Jones
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3962

June 23, 2025

RE: Opposition to HB 3962-14

Committee: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair McLane, and honored members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

My name is Scottie Jones. My husband and I own Leaping Lamb Farm. We have hosted a farm stay on our property since 2008 and collected TLT from our guests. We have faithfully submitted these taxes to both our county and our state with the understanding this would benefit tourism marketing for Oregon, Benton County, and even our rural community of Alsea. I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns about HB 3962 and respectfully urge you to oppose this bill.

Tourism is not just about visitors - it supports local businesses, creates jobs, and brings money into our communities. The Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) was designed to fund tourism efforts, helping towns and cities across Oregon attract visitors who spend money at restaurants, shops, and local events. HB 3962 would divert funds from these efforts and redirect them elsewhere, even though tourism already contributes to city services through its tax revenue.

Many believe that all tourism organizations receive 70% of TLT funds, but that's not true. In Corvallis, only 30% of the City's 9% goes to tourism, while the rest helps fund other city services. Benton County also has a 3% lodging tax, of which 70% helps fund the Benton County Fairgrounds and Event Center, and the remaining 30% is retained for their general fund. Even with this setup, budget gaps still remain. This bill won't address those issues; it will only make it harder for tourism to generate the dollars that support our community.

Tourism also supports our reach to folks as close as Corvallis and as far away as Europe and Asia. It helps our farm be sustainable, but it also helps us to be educators as we model real farm production and real farm life for our guests. This protects our land and keeps it in full production.

Additionally, tourism businesses pay more than lodging taxes—they also pay property taxes, licensing fees, and other local taxes that help fund essential city and county services. A strong tourism economy benefits everyone, and reducing tourism funding could actually lower overall tax revenue for cities and counties.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3962-14. Tourism is an

investment in our community, and protecting TLT funds ensures that our cities, small businesses, and local events continue to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Scottie Jones
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