

To: Oregon Senate Subcommittee on Finance and Revenue

From: Terrance Bichsel-Owner Rivertide Suites Hotel Seaside, OR

Date: June 24, 2025

Subject: House Bill 2977

Please carefully consider my comments and perspective on HB 2977.

We are a small business owning and operating a Hotel in a small Oregon Coast City (Seaside). We have owned/operated the Hotel for 18+ years and weathered the Great Recession (2008-2011), Covid (2020-2023) and many weather-related events over the years. Our staff of 40+ employees are hard-working, dedicated professionals who “show-up” every day to serve our guests, predominantly Oregonians vacationing on the Coast.

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 like ours!

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.

I not only urge you to vote NO on HB2977 , I consider the effects of HB 2977(if passed) to be tantamount to an assault on an industry in Oregon that is barely surviving as it is. Please give close consideration of those thousands of jobs that will be at risk if this bill passes.

Thank you,

Terrance J Bichsel

Rivertide Suites Hotel

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