

Submitter: Gloria Thomas
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148

To all concerned:

As a small lodging establishment in Medford we are already having to deal with a possible tax increase of 2%, if the conference center is approved. This will have a major impact on our occupancy as well as our net profits. In addition, there is another bill on the table for a possible State TLT increase. These increases will already make us non-competitive for many other destinations that have a lot more infrastructure to offer. If on top of those increases we will also not be getting our current portion of the existing TLT to use to promote our low and shoulder season to attract visitors during those times, that would put us at a great disadvantage to attract individuals or groups to Southern Oregon.

I do not see the correlation between one industry, the Tourism and Lodging industry, having to support and provide industry dollars to other areas in order to promote or support them. The City of Medford, Jackson County and even the State have got to come up with a better solution to provide to the other areas that need assistance.

In the meeting to increase the State TLT, one of the reasons given in support of that bill was because the wolves are causing the farmers to lose livestock. While I am sorry that that occurs, why is it Tourism's/Lodging responsibility to pay the farmers for their loss? That compensation needs to be provided by the State or the Counties.

If you think that the visitor will still come... that is yet to be seen or determined.