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Chamber Board 2026

Patrick Jackson, Pres.
New American Funding
541-241-2981

Rex Lesueur, Vice Pres.
Bancorp Insurance
541-536-1726

Aaron Schofield, Treas.
First Interstate Bank
541-593-8101

Ethel Dumon
St. Vincent de Paul
541-536-1956

Helen Marston
Helen's Real Estate
541-876-7490

Heather Dollarhyde
WaFed Bank
971-275-2838

Jodi Kerr
Meandering Maker

Ann Gawith
Executive Director

To: House Committee on Revenue

Re: Changes in TRT distribution

La Pine is one of many, many small rural communities whose economy relies on tourism dollars to supplement our small local businesses. In the City of La Pine we do not have a wealth of over-night stay properties, which makes for a relatively small amount of collected revenue that remains in the community. It is essential to the operations of our Visitor Center, and augments the General Fund of the City. We have spent years creating our "brand" that ties us in with the surrounding area which includes Sunriver, Gilchrist/Crescent, Fort Rock and Crescent Lake area and the nearby resorts. We have leveraged the marketing dollars we do have by partnerships with Crater Lake Country.com and Sunriver Resort. Our ability to sustain the level we have worked so hard to achieve would be severely reduced if the proposed adjustments were to be made.

The City of La Pine very thoughtfully disburses the funds allocated for tourism. With the funds we receive we have created a Visitor Center that is second to none. We fill a very important role in the marketing of one of only four National Monuments in the entire State of Oregon ... the Newberry National Volcanic Monument. We employ 3 part-time and 1 full-time staff, plus ancillary staff such as a bookkeeper, as well as 6 regular volunteers. Not an insignificant role to play in a community our size.

We are certainly sensitive to the impact that bringing in tourists has on the infrastructure of our community, but the benefits to local restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, recreation vendors, motels and resorts, far outweighs those concerns.

Please consider all this when you are voting on making changes to the current TRT allocation ordinance.

Sincerely,

Ann Gawith, Executive Director

La Pine Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center