

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4148

It supposedly common knowledge that what is good for Tourism is good for the people who live at the Coast. Politicians have run campaigns on this as a central issue of their effort to garner votes-as if it is an accepted fact. When an overwhelming majority of voters asked for more control and limits on short term rentals (after the thousands of dollars put forth by the property managers and realtors), these interests acted surprised. Why would locals want to cut their own throats? The money from tourists went towards the betterment of life for all, and the transient tax helped everyone.

I became involved because, as a full time resident, my house was being surrounded by these mini-motels. Some of the folks were nice enough, but all it took was one bad renter to ruin the quality of neighborhood life. When I actually looked into the local improvements that this tax provided for the residents, I quickly found none that mattered to me. I found that most of it went to promoting more tourism. Perhaps you own a gas station, a mini-mart, or a salt water taffy stand, etc., Then this tax might help you. The tourists mean to the rest of us crowds in our favorite places, worse traffic, and more danger on the roads. There now is only one road that can take you from Lincoln City to Newport where we must go for Doctors and major services and at least part of that road is falling into the Sea. One only has to drive it to see what I mean. In The Summer, at least, I'll bet half of the traffic that is pounding it is from Tourists.

If there is a transient tax then much of it should be allocated to mitigating the detrimental effects of tourism on the locals living in the touristic areas. That only makes sense. That is only fair.