




FROM THE DESK OF
REP. CLIFF BENTZ

PLEASE OPPOSE HB 2656A

HB 2656A imposes a tourism tax on the services customers use to book hotel rooms, increasing the cost of tourism in Oregon. If passed, HB 2656A will expand Oregon's occupancy tax to include the service fees charged not only by online travel agencies, but also those charged by travel agents and tour operators. Immediately, the new tax will place Oregon at a competitive disadvantage in the region and to all of the other states like California, Idaho and Washington that have no such tax.

HB 2656A will harm the business model of online and brick-and-mortar travel agents and is **unnecessary because these travel companies already pay their fair share of taxes** and spend their resources to market Oregon's tourism industry. These companies collect and remit all lodging taxes collected to hotel operators who then remit the proper, and full, tax amount calculated on the amount paid for the room, not the service fee paid to facilitate its retention. Additionally, the revenue related to lodging bookings is subject to income and other taxes. Targeting this business model and taxing the service fee that HB 2656A proposes will result in fewer filled rooms and less tax revenue for Oregon.

The companies negatively affected by HB 2656A provide customers, hotels and the state with a valuable service – taxing this service is a disincentive to these companies and will disproportionately harm small and independent hotels in every corner of the state who rely on these services to market their hotel – not every hotel has the resources to do their own marketing like the large hotel chains do.

Please join us in opposing HB 2656A

(See the back for companies who oppose new taxes on Service Fees)

TRAVEL TECH

Who Opposes New Taxes on Service Fees?

There are many companies and organizations who have been opposed to new taxes on service fees. This includes, but is not limited to:

