



Governor Kate Brown
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 254
Salem, OR 97301

Senate President Peter Courtney
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, S-201
Salem, OR 97301

House Speaker Tina Kotek
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 269
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Lee Beyer
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, S-419
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Phil Barnhart
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, H-480
Salem, OR 97301

Representative John Lively
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, H-488
Salem, OR 97301

Governor Brown, President Courtney, Speaker Kotek, Members of the Springfield delegation, and Members of the Legislature:

The *Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce* is comprised of 950 member organizations who share a common interest in advancing business and economic development and prosperity for our region. We recognize the importance of tourism and travel for our local, regional and state economy. We support the efforts of Travel Lane County and Travel Oregon and view the Transient Room Tax to be an effective and vital source of funding for these and other important tourism and travel initiatives. We also acknowledge the significant return on investment generated by these revenues.

Our position on the Transient Room Tax increase is to support a 1% increase that also carries a sunset clause.

- **Tourism Industry Funding Expansion:** A 1% increase in the successful state lodging tax provides an important expansion of the funding mechanism designed to support global marketing, global sales and destination development for communities across our state. In line with these goals, this bill will generate critical revenue, primarily from out of state visitors, to support state and regional tourism including the 2021 World Track & Field Championships slated to be hosted in Eugene, Oregon.
- **Largest World Sporting Event in 2021:** The World Outdoor Championships is the third largest global sporting event, behind the Olympics and the World Cup. In 2021, it will be the largest sporting event of the year. 200 countries will be represented with more than 2000 of the world's elite track and field athletes visiting our state to break world records and enjoy the magic of Hayward Field as well as the Oregon experience.
- **Showcase Oregon Products and Goods:** In addition to the event itself and the exposure Oregon will have to an international television audience, more than 50,000 visitors will come to our state, use our services, stay in our communities, contribute to our economy and help put Oregon on the radar of millions of people across the globe.
- **Help our Local Economies:** With the athletes, their families, international media, and fans traveling to Oregon, we will see economic boosts from retail spending, lodging and accommodations, transportation,



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food and other services. It's not just the nine days of events – for several weeks prior to the competitions beginning, teams will live here, train here and contribute to the economies of communities across the State.

- **Limited Duration:** While the Chamber is fully supportive of the 2021 Games and while we acknowledge the significant positive economic impacts generated by our local and state tourism agencies, programs, and marketing efforts, we also respect the potential impact of a permanent taxation on our local hoteliers. We view these impacts as deserving of future dialogue and in this regard, support a limited duration tax legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Eyster". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mike Eyster
Chair, Board of Directors
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce
(541) 746-1651