



Testimony by City of Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp Supporting HB 2744:

Proposed Legislation Provides Local Governments with Greater Flexibility and Accountability for Transient Lodging Tax Revenues

Scheduled for public hearing on March 22, 2017, before the House Committee on Economic Development and Trade

Chair Lininger, Vice-Chairs Marsh and Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying in support of HB 2744.

HB 2744 would revise the definition of a tourism-related facility by removing the requirement that improvements have a useful life of 10 years and instead generally cover improvements and maintenance to real property that have a substantial purpose to support, promote or accommodate tourism. Providing local communities with the flexibility for funding improvements that may actually address the real tourism needs of the community facilitates tourism's ability to be a real driver of economic-development. In today's changing world economy, requiring improvements to a useful life of 10 years may be a misallocation of resources that does not address the real needs of the evolving tourism market.

The bill also facilitates local governments' ability to collect and verify the amount of transient lodging tax revenues that are due and payable in order to provide a community with an accurate accounting of funds that should be used to promote tourism. Providing the ability to verify accurate accounting for the generation of transient lodging tax collections facilitates a level playing field for all lodging properties in a competitive market. And, ultimately, complete accounting and remitting of tourism tax receipts can provide a community with an accurate view of tourism activity and additional resources to advance tourism development.

The City of Wilsonville respectfully urges a DO PASS vote on HB 2744. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tim Knapp'.

Tim Knapp, Mayor
City of Wilsonville