

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Board of Commissioners
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March 22, 2017

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Economic Development & Trade
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Committee Members:

Please add to the records of the House Committee on Economic Development & Trade these comments related to House Bills 2744 and 2768, which are on the Committee's agenda for public hearing on March 22, 2017.

Tillamook County fully supports House Bills 2744 and 2768. We have a local transient lodging tax (TLT) that our voters approved with the stipulation that the 30% to be used to fund general county services go to our Roads Department. Tillamook County had some of the worst roads in the State of Oregon, and the pot holes were a detriment to attracting tourists.

The 70% of net revenue that is used to fund tourism promotion or tourism-related facilities has been so successful that we cannot provide adequate restrooms or parking for the tourists who visit Pacific City. We have people parking in private driveways, yards and anywhere they can find a spot to stop a car. The beach is so crowded on weekends that it overwhelms our Sheriff's patrols. The success of the advertising has come at a terrible cost to the livability of our communities.

We urge passage of both House Bills 2744 and 2768. Both will relax some of the rigid restrictions imposed on local TLTs in 2003 and will give us more flexibility in improving sidewalks, parking, and restroom facilities to serve the tourists needs.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON

Bill Baertlein, Chair

Tim Josi, Vice Chair

David Yamamoto, Commissioner