

From: Annie Pollard
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Support Senate Bill 745
Date: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 2:36:27 PM

May 2nd, 2017

To: Chair Hass, members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

From: Annie Pollard, owner, 7 Devils Brewing Co. and Public House in Coos Bay, OR

RE: SB 745

Dear Sirs:

I strongly support SB 745 to establish an ocean beach fund.

Summer traffic at the 7 Devils Brewing Co. in Coos Bay, OR is our bread and butter. Visitors come here to play on our beaches and stay to spend money in our community.

These two bills allow Oregon State Parks coastal campgrounds to retain lodging taxes, placing them into a fund that can be used to help manage our public beaches. In Coos Bay, we've seen a sharp uptick in visitor usage of our beaches, and a corresponding decrease in OPRD's ability to manage the impacts of this increased use. As we've experienced first hand through our partnered community beach stewardship efforts, Oregon State Parks does not have adequate capacity to accommodate increasing tourism traffic, impacting the quality of our beaches along our entire coastline.

Working behind the bar at our public house, I hear a lot of chatter from tourists about our area. The tone of the conversation regarding our beaches in the last two years has shifted

noticeably from accolades to complaints about debris, safety hazards, and brimming cans. This is NOT good for coastal tourism.

While I support a sizable percentage of transient tax that is spent on tourism, I strongly encourage you to support these bills. The portion of this tax that would be retained within the Ocean Beach Fund is insignificant to the greater revenue of the statewide lodging tax, but would have a huge impact for improving our most valuable tourism asset, our beaches. Clean, safe beaches are our greatest draw in coastal Oregon communities. I argue that dollars spent maintaining this asset ARE dollars spent promoting Oregon tourism.

Thank You,

Annie Pollard

Owner, 7 Devils Brewing Co.

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