

May 2, 2017

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Honorable Senators:

Chair Mark Hass

Brian Boquist

Herman Baertschiger, Jr.

Chuck Riley

Kathleen Taylor

My name is Shannon Souza. I am a 22 year resident of Coos Bay, a professional engineer and principal of Sol Coast Companies with a common mission of supporting strategic growth, responsible development and sustainable living on the Oregon coast (including environmental management of the public water supply located in the Oregon National Dunes Recreation Area). I am also the former environmental director for Weyerhaeuser Company's paper mill on the North Spit with land holdings abutting our public beaches as well as a daily coastal trail runner or surfer.

Consequently, since 1994 I have been in weekly, if not daily, professional and/or recreational contact with one of Oregon's state treasures: Our Public Coastline. Due to the increasing levels of tourism traffic and rapidly changing coastal climate, the safety of our locals and visitors as well as the management of increasing levels of beach debris require that we set aside dedicated funding to manage this invaluable asset.

Through my firm's work as a design builder of efficient homes, I have been exposed to the growing number of retirees moving to the area - many of whom have chosen to relocate their households and invest in our coastal economy due to the beauty and accessibility of our beaches. We also assist our medical professional community in their recruitment of professionals to the coast, many of whom are primarily drawn by the unique public resource that our coastal access provides us. For my colleagues, friends and clients alike, our beaches are critical components of our healthy lifestyles which are increasingly in need of active management for the protection of delicate ecosystems, essential infrastructure, public safety and refuse management.

Our coastline is a state treasure that deserves adequate management and maintenance through a viable and directly related funding mechanism. Allowing Oregon State Parks coastal campgrounds to retain lodging taxes and placing them into a fund that can be used to help manage our public beaches should be supported.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Shannon Souza, PE

Owner, Sol Coast Consulting & Design, LLC