



May 18, 2017

House Committee on Revenue  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: House Bill 2064-1:** Amending local transient lodging tax definitions to better match the State definition.

Dear Chair Barnhart, Vice-Chair Bentz, Vice-Chair Warner, and members of the House Committee on Revenue;

I'm writing today to express Beaverton's support for the -1 amendment to House Bill 2064. Tourism has become a focal point in Beaverton's economy and HB 2064 as amended will help ensure we can focus our transient lodging tax dollars in the most effective ways to make the city a destination for art, culture, and recreation tourism. Beaverton recently enacted a 4% transient lodging tax aimed at supporting our Center for the Arts, a 450-seat center for professional theater, dance, live music, and arts education, located in the Beaverton Central District. This tourism facility will attract and increase regional visitors into the community.

Having the flexibility to target our transient lodging tax revenue on tourism investments beyond tourism promotion will ensure we have regionally-attracting facilities and programs needed to enhance Beaverton's tourism. With the completion of the Beaverton Center for the Arts, the city expects to draw thousands of additional visitors each year – many of whom will stay in area hotels, enjoy restaurants, and shop.

The -1 amendment to House Bill 2064 updates the definition of tourism promotion for local transient lodging tax use, just as the State did in 2016 in HB 4146. Under an amended HB 2064, local tourism promotion would include special events and festivals that attract tourists as well as enhancing tourism facilities or providing tourist amenities.

I urge you to support House Bill 2064 with the -1 amendment, as it will provide the flexibility necessary to wisely invest in Beaverton's growing tourism programs and facilities. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Twete". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Twete  
Community Development Director