



**Testimony by City of Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp Supporting HB 2064-1:
*Proposed Legislation Provides Local Governments with Greater Flexibility
and Accountability for Transient Lodging Tax Revenues***

Scheduled for public hearing on May 18, 2017, before the
House Committee on Revenue

Chair Barnhart, Vice-Chairs Bentz and Smith Warner, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying in support of HB 2064 with the -1 amendments.

HB 2064 would provide local governments with greater flexibility in the use of transient lodging tax revenues to support a variety of community amenity improvements that increase the attractiveness of Oregon cities to attract and host tourists, while also building greater local support for the emerging tourism economy.

The bill also provides for increased accountability for the correct remittance of transient lodging taxes, thereby ensuring a standard playing field for all kinds of lodging properties and their third-party sales agents such as online reservations companies.


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.

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 2064-1. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Tim Knapp, Mayor
City of Wilsonville