



MEMORANDUM

June 8, 2017

TO: Chair Phil Barnhart, Rep. Pam Marsh & House Revenue Committee
FR: Dan Jarman, on behalf of Airbnb
RE: Statement on HB 2064 (-6) amendment

Airbnb opposes the proposed (-6) amendment to HB 2064 that changes transient lodging tax collection requirements. While we strongly support these taxes as a way to promote local tourism, we believe there are other ways to create a more sensible and workable law related to collecting and remitting local transient lodging taxes on behalf of our host community in Oregon.

In February, we testified that we were willing to work on legislation that mandated collection of local transient lodging taxes, provided the state move toward collection through the Department of Revenue, with remittance back to cities and counties (similar to the new process for collecting and remitting local marijuana taxes). We agree with many policymakers, and the League of Oregon Cities, who believe this is the most efficient way to carry out a mandated statewide requirement.

However, very recent work on amendments to HB 2064 go in the opposite direction. The current proposed amendment requires platforms that facilitate short term rental transactions to collect and remit local transient lodging taxes, but it does not address other key issues such as uniformity amongst the various local laws. Oregon has more than 100 local jurisdictions with different lodging tax laws. They vary regarding rates, collection and filing requirements, auditing and other provisions. Some locals even prefer to collect on their own, and not require platforms to collect for operators or hosts. This patchwork of local laws, many of which conflict with the proposed state law, makes it very challenging for platforms to administer and get it right, especially ones like Airbnb that operate in 191 countries and 65,000 cities worldwide.

Airbnb is committed to helping our host community pay their fair share of local taxes. This is why Airbnb approached the city of Portland in 2013 to voluntarily collect and remit transient lodging taxes on behalf of our Portland hosts. Since that time, we have worked with numerous Oregon local governments on similar agreements where we collect and remit. Some include: Multnomah County, Washington County, Clackamas County, Lane County, Tillamook County, Lincoln County, Bend, Beaverton, Eugene, Springfield and Florence. We continue to work with other local jurisdictions on executing similar agreements.



We also have been collecting the statewide transient lodging tax, now at 1.8%, for a number of years.

We believe new requirements with this amendment fail to address the complexities of mandating statewide collection and remittance, especially with more than 100 different local laws that don't speak to uniformity. At the very least, platforms should be given more time to work through these complexities, if the state wants to see a workable collection law for hosts offering their homes to visitors coming to Oregon.

We remain committed to working with your committee on this issue, but this (-6) amendment does not forge good public policy regarding workable local lodging tax collection and remittance. Thank you for allowing to make comments regarding this bill and amendments.