



CITY OF GRESHAM

Testimony in Support of HB 4120
February 5, 2018

The City of Gresham strongly supports HB 4120, which would clarify statute and provide consistency in the application of the state’s transient lodging tax, ensuring that short-term rentals booked through online intermediaries pay their fair share, and do so on a level playing field.

There is no articulatable policy reason that explains why third-party online intermediaries should not have to collect taxes, file tax returns, and pay just like other lodging providers do. The status quo, which is often defined by confusion and non-compliance, often requires local governments to enter in to separate agreements with third-party online intermediaries in order to gain compliance, and even then, too often operate with limited data in order to monitor the system.

This legislation is not a remarkable change from the purpose and intent of the transient lodging tax, but is a necessary and largely definitional clarification to ensure that as technology changes, our statutes and systems of taxation are up-to-date and effective at providing their intended purpose, and that enforcement is straightforward. HB 4120 would modernize the transient lodging tax system, while increasing fairness and revenue collection for services.

The Gresham City Council has identified issues around short-term rentals as a priority in its 2018 Council Work Plan. This legislation would make a significant difference in the City’s ability to delivery on this community goal. We strongly urge your support for this legislation, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Chambers
Government Relations Director
City of Gresham, Oregon