



February 7, 2018

Chair Phil Barnhart,
House Revenue Committee
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 4120

Chair Barnhart & Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Tourism Development Council for Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory, the destination marketing organization for Clackamas County, I wish to thank the sponsors of HB 4120 for its introduction and ask for the committee's support for this needed piece of legislation.

Travelers are researching and booking lodging accommodations on a myriad of new platforms that have come online in recent years. Paired with these are new transactional relationships to execute the retail sale of accommodations. In 2013, the legislature passed HB 2656 to establish a statutory definition for "transient lodging intermediary" to help identify which entity in the relationship chain is responsible for collecting and remitting transient lodging taxes (TLT).

That legislation successfully provided clarity and compliance as it pertained to the State's transient lodging tax. However, five years later, cities and counties with their own TLTs - which are statutorily authorized - continue to struggle with trying to get transient lodging intermediaries to comply with local tax programs.

HB 4120 provides additional clarity regarding the responsibilities of transient lodging intermediaries as they relate to local TLT programs. It also provides audit authority to local jurisdictions which is needed to help ensure that these taxes are being accurately collected and remitted. One other hopeful outcome of this legislation is fairness. When transient lodging intermediaries become compliant with local lodging tax programs they will be playing by the same rules as entities offering accommodations through traditional methods.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 4120 and I urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Austin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Austin
Legislative Affairs Coordinator,
Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory