



## Opposition to HB 4120

Airbnb is an online marketplace that allows people to list, discover, and book unique accommodations around the world—whether a spare bedroom, an apartment, a cabin, or a castle. Airbnb allows individuals to safely and securely locate each other, communicate, and make financial transactions in over 65,000 cities and 191 countries.

Airbnb is committed to helping our community pay its fair share of hotel and tourist taxes. This is why we began voluntarily collecting and remitting transient lodging taxes on behalf of our community in the City of Portland in 2014, the very first tax agreement in our company's history.

Since then, we have reached similar agreements with more than 340 jurisdictions around the world, including [more than 20 here in Oregon](#). These include Multnomah County, Washington County, Lane County, Tillamook County, Klamath County, Bend, Redmond, Beaverton, Newport, Lincoln City, Eugene, Springfield and Florence. We continue working to reach similar agreements with other jurisdictions throughout Oregon. We have been collecting the statewide transient lodging tax, now 1.8%, since 2014.

We support a statewide TLT collection system. However, there's a more sensible and efficient way to accomplish this than proposed in HB 4120.

HB 4120 expands the definition of "transient lodging intermediary" to require platforms that facilitate short term rental transactions to collect and remit all local transient lodging taxes (TLTs) in the 100+ jurisdictions in Oregon.

By mandating individual collection and remittance, HB 4120 would move the state away from, rather than toward, a more workable statewide collection system.

The bill has other flaws, including:

- Unclear language around tax base and guest fees that will create confusion for taxpayers.
- Lack of uniformity among local TLT ordinances creates significant administrative hurdles for the collecting and remitting of taxes statewide.
- New broad subpoena power for local governments against internet platforms that has not been proposed, nor discussed, in any earlier transient lodging tax legislation. The issues around user data privacy require thoughtful consideration and careful vetting by policymakers and stakeholders, including internet platforms that are stewards of user data.

We are ready to work with the Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR), local governments and legislators on a new statewide collection system through the DOR, with remittance back to cities and counties. We agree with many policymakers who believe this is the most efficient way to carry out a mandated statewide requirement, similar to what Oregon is doing now with its marijuana program. A similar statewide system is working well in [Arizona, where Airbnb has collected all applicable state, local and city taxes and remitted them to the state since January 2017](#).

It's important to ensure that tax collection and remittance follows best practices, for all parties involved - local governments, hosts who offer accommodations to guests and internet platforms that facilitate rentals. We ask the legislature to work on a more viable policy which ensures local governments receive local transient lodging taxes through a DOR collection regime.

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