



February 5, 2018

House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 4120

Dear Committee members,

On behalf of Technet, I respectfully ask you to reject HB 4120 and instead work on a more efficient policy which ensures local governments receive local transient lodging taxes through a DOR collection system.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy. As the Voice of the Innovation Economy, TechNet advances public policies and private sector initiatives at the federal, state, and local levels that make the United States the world leader in innovation. We champion policies that foster a climate of innovation and competition, allowing America's tech industry to flourish.

Since our members provide technology solutions across many jurisdictions, our members generally favor clear, statewide solutions rather than regulations that vary from one jurisdiction to the next. 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, creating significant administrative hurdles.

Further, HB 4120 gives overly broad and expansive subpoena power to local jurisdictions and creates an unwieldy and unnecessarily complex tax enforcement regime.

A basic principle of online privacy requires sufficient legal justification for government to obtain the personal data of online users. Here, it is not clear the justification provided for granting

subpoena power against platforms and other lodging providers would be sufficient to override users' legitimate expectation of privacy when using an online service.

As we have seen in other cities around the world, short term rentals (STRs) help spread the economic benefits of tourism throughout Oregon, and into neighborhoods that historically have not been able to benefit from tourism. STRs provide several types of affordable accommodation for families, business travelers, and students, and provides support to the growing economy.

As you consider this bill, we respectfully urge you to reject HB 4120 and instead consider a more efficient system to carry out a mandated statewide requirement.

TechNet appreciates your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Joanie Deutsch
Executive Director, Northwest
Technet