



Date: February 26, 2018
To: Senate Finance and Revenue Chair Mark Hass and Members of the Senate Finance & Revenue Committee
From: Greg Astley, Director of Government Affairs, Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association
RE: HB 4120 – Please Support!

Chair Hass and Members of the House Revenue Committee,

The Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association supports the passage and approval of HB 4120. In 2003, the Tourism Investment Program (HB 2267) was adopted, establishing the statutory framework for the transient lodging tax program. Third-party intermediaries have always played a role in short-term lodging, and that role has increased as new short-term lodging models emerged in the marketplace and consumers more frequently turned to multiple online platforms to compare prices and make their vacation plans.

In 2013, we believe the Legislature passed bills intending to treat short-term rental intermediaries the same as traditional hotels, motels and other lodging establishments who pay the transient lodging tax to the state, counties and cities. While some intermediaries including Expedia and Priceline continue to pay local lodging taxes as a result of the 2013 legislation, the practice is not consistent across the short-term intermediary marketplace.

HB 4120 would assist local governments and the state in requiring these third-party intermediaries to collect, file a return, and pay if they have hosts in the jurisdiction. This bill does not impose any new taxes, change any taxes, or require companies or hosts to do more than they should already be doing in accordance with local and state laws.

The need to statutorily clarify that short-term rental intermediaries are responsible for collecting and remitting the transient lodging taxes was reinforced in 2016 by the HB 4146 Work Group and as a result, HB 2049 was introduced in the 2017 session.

It is time to hold these third-party intermediaries to the same standards as all other lodging operators.

Cities, counties and the state need tax fairness and tax transparency. HB 4120 provides both. We encourage you to pass HB 4120 to properly allow for enforcement of existing laws and to ensure no entities operate outside the laws of our state.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Astley", is written over a horizontal line.

Greg Astley
Director of Government Affairs
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association