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**2/18/2019**

Chair Fagan & members of the committee,

My name is Rob Harris. I am a resident of Hillsboro, Oregon. I am testifying on behalf of the Independent Party of Oregon in favor of SB 595.

This legislation will allow local governments that have a transient lodging tax (TLT) to re-allocate 40% of those taxes to provide workforce housing. Currently, local TLT's may only be spent on general fund (30%) or tourism (70%). We support this change.

We believe that it is appropriate to use a portion of funds raised through tourism-related taxes, given both the scale of Oregon's affordable housing crisis, given the large number of tourism-related jobs that are at the lower end of the pay scale and the role that destination marketing plays in driving up local housing prices. In essence, this tax is rationally related to the problems it is designed to address.

Oregon cities have very few tools to address the housing affordability crisis. This particular one seems very well thought out.

We urge the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Rob Harris  
IPO Co-Chair