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Oregon Progressive Party Position on Bill at 2019 Session of Oregon Legislature:

SB 595: Transient Lodging Tax

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party supports this bill, which adjusts allocation percentages of net revenue from new or increased local transient lodging tax to allow up to 30 percent of such revenue to be used to fund affordable workforce housing. But it should be amended in two ways.

First, this bill applies only to transient lodging tax revenues that are new or increased on or after July 2, 2003. We see no reason to exempt revenue from tax levels established prior to that date.

Second, this bill continues to reserve too much for tourism promotion. Currently, transient lodging tax revenue may only be spent on general fund (30%) or tourism (70%). This bill reduces the guaranteed share for tourism promotion to 40% (for new or increased revenues only). We would favor reducing that share to 0% for all transient lodging tax revenue. The private sector providers of transient lodging are capable of promoting their own businesses.

Oregon Progressive Party

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