

**From:** [Carla Albright](#)  
**To:** [LRO](#)  
**Subject:** SB 595 Transient Lodging Tax changing  
**Date:** Saturday, March 16, 2019 10:46:49 AM

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I am writing on behalf of the Tillamook Coast History Alliance as well as the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum. Both of these organizations have a vested interest in opposing SB 595 because of the negative effect it will have on our local tourism industry.

- Funding of housing initiatives should not be placed solely on the back of lodging. We realize lack of affordable housing is a major issue in communities all over Oregon. But tourism did not cause a housing shortage and the industry should not be penalized for something that has many causes. To fix this problem, we need many solutions, but a change in the current TLT law is not one of them.
- The way it stands now, Oregon State law allows the counties to use their TLT money in the general fund for any service they see fit. It was a local vote that restricted it, and a local vote can unrestricted it. Our County Commissioners have 30% of the TLT funds collected to use as they see fit. They currently use it for road repair but some of those funds could be used for housing.
- Our museum – as well as other museums and attractions in our county - have directly seen the economic gain due to increased attendance over the past four years since the TLT was passed. Much of this increase is due directly to the efforts of Visit Tillamook Coast as they promote our county statewide, nationwide, and internationally. We have come to rely on the TLT funds to help our joint and individual marketing efforts as well as help with upgrading infrastructure. Removing these funds would have an direct and adverse impact on **all** our tourism-related businesses. It would impact not just museums and attractions, but shops, restaurants, lodging and other businesses like gas stations, fast-food restaurants and entertainment. This removal of funding has the potential to defund Visit Tillamook Coast and their efforts and also have a significant impact on how local cities invest in the tourism industry.

In short, we strongly encourage you **not** to pass SR 595.

Thank you.

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