

**From:** [Ben Perle](#)  
**To:** [LRO](#)  
**Subject:** My position on SB595  
**Date:** Saturday, March 16, 2019 12:11:59 PM

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Dear members of the Oregon Senate:

I urge the members of the Oregon Senate to vote NO on SB595.

As a co-owner in a boutique hotel property in the heart of the burgeoning Oregon wine country, my business and the jobs of everyone who works with me are reliant on tourism. The investment that local Destination Marketing Organizations make to increase economic development through the promotion of tourism is vital to our communities.

There's no question our state needs to focus on structural changes to solve our affordable housing crisis.

However, the burden for paying for these changes should not rest upon a single industry. The ability for municipal governments to take an additional 30% of lodging taxes would cut budgets for DMOs nearly in half - and without that investment in the promotion of tourism, many industries reliant on tourism would suffer. Vital industries to Oregon's economy and sense of self, such as outdoor recreation, arts and culture, restaurants, lodging, transportation services, and Oregon's \$6 billion wine industry, would pay the price.

The law already protects 30% of lodging taxes for local governments. As economic development through the promotion of tourism grows, so does their 30% piece of the pie. I urge Oregon Senators to rethink SB595 and vote no on a bill that would cripple our tourism industry and create a ripple effect on industries vital to jobs and income for Oregon citizens.

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