



**Claire Hall
County Commissioner**

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Chair Hass, Vice Chair Bentz, Members of the Committee:

I am Claire Hall, currently serving my fourth term as a Lincoln County Commissioner, and I am writing to urge your support for SB 595, which will give communities additional resources to address our affordable housing crisis.

Giving local jurisdictions the option to allocate a portion of their transient lodging taxes to housing makes sense for many reasons, but that's especially true in areas like the coast, the Gorge and Central Oregon, where the economy is largely driven by tourism. Increasingly, hospitality businesses are reporting difficulty in recruiting and retaining workers, and they usually cite the lack of decent, safe affordable housing as the number one barrier. Marketing of our wonderful attractions is important, but when cities like Lincoln City are generating transient lodging revenues at virtually the same level as their general fund, and "no vacancy" signs prevail at hotels, motels and campgrounds from March to October, it seems like a rethinking of our priorities is in order.

Please vote "yes" on SB 595.

Claire Hall
Lincoln County Commissioner

