From: Anne Hallinan

To: <u>LRO</u>

Subject: SB595 - OPPOSITION

Date: Monday, March 18, 2019 11:10:49 AM

As a professional meeting planner and independent business owner, I am very much opposed to SB595.

Whereas affordable housing is an issue in our state, SB595 places an unfair penalty on hotels and burdens one industry with trying to fund a broad systemic challenge. Not to mention the fact that transient room tax revenues are meant to support and enhance the tourism industry by providing marketing funds, thereby increasing business and keeping people employed. Reallocating these funds to something other than destination marketing could negatively impact the industry as a whole and set a bad precedent.

Is sounds like a good idea on the surface, but it is not. We need to protect these funds to ensure a vibrant future for our industry and state as a whole. Meetings and tourism bring an incredible amount of money into our economy. Let's not do anything to affect that.

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