



March 18, 2019

The Honorable Mark Hass, Chairman
Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
900 Court Street, NE | Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR

Dear Chairman Hass and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Judy Trego, and I thank you for the opportunity to represent the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce in opposition to SB595.

As you may know, Sisters is a small rural town and our economic engine is tourism. The Sisters community hosts many large events that draw up to 100,000 people to a town with a population of just over 2000 people. Those events include the Sisters Rodeo, Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show, Sisters Folk Festival, Sisters Harvest Faire and many others. The funds raised through TLT are critical to not only Sisters economy but to all of Oregon's rural communities. The funds allow us to attract visitors to our town during the shoulder season and stabilizes employers and employees incomes by providing local workers with year-round employment.

If funding toward tourism promotion efforts are reduced, it will eliminate Oregon's tourism competitive advantage with others states that promote tourism and the original intent of the law will undermined. Currently, local DMO's, local businesses, RDMO's and Travel Oregon work in together to increase the economy in all parts of the state, unheard of in many industries.

Please help us to continue to grow Sisters and rural Oregon's economy by supporting stable local-level funding of the tourism and hospitality industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this important position from my community. If you need any further information, please contact me at my Sisters, Oregon office.

Warm Regards,

Judy Trego

Executive Director

Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce

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Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce

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