

From: [Cathey Briggs](#)
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: Testimony Regarding SB 595
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019 8:26:52 AM

I am writing in support of this bill that would give local jurisdictions the flexibility, and resources they need to address their critical housing needs.

I have owned a house in Newport for 30 years, and have witnessed a tremendous decline in the supply of rental housing available and affordable to local residents. The proliferation of vacation rentals available through on-line booking sites such as Air B and B, and Vacasa, has rapidly accelerated the depletion of affordable housing. The City of Newport is currently grappling with this issue because the working class of Newport, the people who clean the motels, serve the public in retail jobs, or restaurant jobs, or social service jobs, are being squeezed out of their own town.

Long term Newport residents are moving outside of the city, to nearby towns, and into unincorporated areas to find more affordable housing, increasing commuting expenses, and destabilizing schools and school children with frequent moves.

I attended many hearings on this issue and have heard repeatedly that the on-line booking platforms for vacation rentals have totally changed the way tourists determine their vacation destinations. All the dollars allocated to the tourism agencies for glossy brochures and videos are not the factor they once were in shaping tourists' destination options.

Coastal communities do not have the resources they need to develop affordable housing. We need a different set of tools. We need a revenue source to support housing options. Every facet of the Newport economy has been affected by the proliferation of vacation rentals. Newport has a diverse economy that relies on a local work force. What we have heard is that teachers, doctors, and nurses - folks with professional salaries who are unable to find housing they can afford. Imagine what it's like for the lower wage workers, the cooks and the dishwashers, and the fish processing plant workers. Pacific Seafood had to buy a motel so that it could provide housing for its seasonal workers.

If the State Legislature is serious about its Land Use Planning program, if it is serious about reducing carbon emissions, and if it's serious about supporting children and families throughout the State, you must give local jurisdictions the resources and tools they need to support both the tourist industry and the people in that community who need affordable housing in order to serve the tourists.

It's time to move forward and support our local communities by giving them the funding options they need to increase permanent housing options. If jurisdictions could retain 30% of the tourist lodging tax for affordable workforce housing, it would be a game changer in terms of allowing local jurisdictions to meet the housing needs of their community.

That's why I am strongly supportive of SB 595.

Thank you,
Cathey Briggs
118 SW High Street
Newport, Oregon 97365

Sent from my iPad