



March 27, 2019

House Committee on Revenue
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137, 3138 Relating to Transient Lodging Tax.

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Findley, Vice-Chair Marsh, and members of the Committee on Revenue,

I'm writing today to express Beaverton's support for House Bill 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137 and 3138. Tourism has become a focal point in Beaverton's economy and these bills will help ensure we can focus our transient lodging tax dollars in the most effective ways to make the city a hub for art, culture, and recreation. Beaverton enacted a 4% transient lodging tax aimed at supporting construction of the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts (PRCA), a 500-seat center for professional theater, dance, live music, and arts and humanities education, located in the Beaverton Central District that will attract and increase regional visitors into the community.

Having the flexibility to target our transient lodging tax revenue on tourism will ensure we have the facilities and programs needed to support Beaverton's robust arts, culture and events programs that bring thousands of visitors to the area. With the completion of the PRCA, the city expects to draw thousands more.

House Bill 3134 would expand the definition of tourism promotion to cover more marketing expenses, as well as improving the local tourism industry by enhancing tourism-related facilities or tourism-generating special events. For example, the City hosts the Beaverton Night Market, an inter-cultural event showcasing ethnic foods, crafts and performances that attracts more than 14,000 people each year. Although we could *promote* this event with transient lodging taxes, we could not cover the related increased security or clean-up costs from the event. House Bill 3134 extends the same parameters to local jurisdictions that the Legislature recently approved for the State transient lodging tax.

House Bill 3135 and 3136 would increase the efficiency and effectiveness of transient lodging tax collections and enforcement and the funding for the Department of Revenue to collect transient lodging tax dollars on the behalf of local jurisdictions. House Bill 3137 would clarify when lodging taxes are collected to align with the accrual method of accounting most typically used.

I urge you to support House Bill 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137 and 3138 and help to improve lodging tax enforcement, provide flexibility to local jurisdictions regarding use of lodging tax revenues, and ensure fairness in the tax application. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Twete". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Twete
Community Development Director