

House Revenue Committee
February 4, 2020

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Reschke, and members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Brendan Finn, Policy Advisor to Governor Brown.

I am here this evening to urge support for HB 4047 which continues the current state transient lodging tax rate passed by the legislature in 2016.

Governor Brown supports the continuation of the current tax rate to support the state's hospitality industry that has become a crucial bedrock for local economies in every corner of our state.

This evening, you will hear briefly about Travel Oregon's programming which has led to growth and success of tourism activities, as well as their statewide benefit. You will also hear how regional and local destination management organizations work with Travel Oregon to leverage resources for infrastructure improvements, tourism marketing efforts and increased revenue that supports local general funds.

HB 4146, which passed in 2016, did more than increase the state lodging tax rate. It also dedicated 30% of these funds to communities across Oregon through a competitive grants program and seven regional cooperative tourism programs. This certainty of revenue has provided stability for regional economic development, giving these regions more stability to address issues like seasonal fluctuations in visitation.

This tax rate has also leveraged resources, primarily from out-of-state visitors, to help facilitate integrated economic development through

partnerships with Travel Oregon, Business Oregon, Oregon Wine Board and the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

These vital state agency partnerships not only promote Oregon as a premier destination, but also showcase the incredible products and goods being produced in Oregon.

To conclude, Governor Brown urges your support for HB 4047 and the return on investment that supports jobs and economic opportunities for Oregonians in every region of our state.

Thank you for your time and your support.