

January 28, 2020



Senator Hass, Chair  
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue  
900 Court St., NE  
Salem, OR 97301



Re: HB 4047 Support, State Transient Lodging Tax

Dear Chair Hass, Vice-Chair Findley and members of the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee:

On behalf of the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Oregon tourism industry, I am writing to urge your support of HB 4047 which would lift the sunset on the state transient lodging tax (TLT) rate and maintain the current level of investment in Oregon's tourism industry.

The TLT was established in 2003 to create a dedicated funding source to promote tourism and economic development in the hospitality industry in Oregon. In 2016 the tax was adjusted to 1.8% with a sunset to 1.5% in July 2020.

As a leader at a local Destination Management Organization (DMO) I urge you to lift the sunset and maintain the statewide TLT at 1.8%. The success of the programs administered by Travel Oregon through revenue generated from this tax have been critical to our Chambers success in growing jobs and increased economic activity for our community.

The Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce has received a \$10,000 grant from Travel Oregon that has allowed us to provide Kiosks in the downtown core to increase the visitor experience. Without the current state TLT 1.8% rate, these kinds of grant projects and regional funding will be cut and programs that leverage these state dollars will be scaled back.

These investments have supported our community as a destination for visitors inside and outside the state, providing added value to the quality of life for the residents of our community. These investments would not have been possible without the state support through the TLT.

I would be happy to share more details on how our community benefits directly from the TLT and answer any questions you may have as you consider this important legislation.

Again, we urge your support of HB 4047 and remain available to answer any questions you have on Sisters will benefit from its continuation.

Sincerely,

**Judy Trego**



**Executive Director**

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