

Re: HB 3556 Relating to the use of local transient tax revenue

I am a home owner in Cannon Beach.

Our town thrives on tourism — year around. As others have noted, tourism accounts for the majority of our City's costs and the majority of the revenue.

I strongly support HB 3556 which would give tourism-driven cities like Cannon Beach much needed flexibility on how it spends TLT dollars.

The compartmentalization of allowed uses is burdensome and unfair to Cannon Beach in that its costs are diverse relative to tourism but the uses of the TLT dollars are highly restricted. The HB 3556 would make the job of managing a tourism centric town like Cannon Beach more equitable and allow TLT dollars to offset costs associated with public safety services and certain costs related to "community infrastructure".

As you might guess, tourism can be burden to small communities, creating the need for more public safety services and other community services, it only make sense that TLT dollars, who purpose is to drive economic growth and job creation across the state, could go to support those necessary services (jobs) to support tourism.

It's not enough to encourage people to visit and spend, we also need to make sure they are safe, water and waste water to sufficient for the demand, and our roads are maintained.

HB 3556 will provide local governments with the discretion to classify essential infrastructure—such as roads, water, wastewater systems, and public safety services (police, fire, and EMS)—as "tourism-related services," ensuring they can use a portion of the 70% lodging tax revenue for these critical needs.

By modernizing Oregon's lodging tax regulations, we can better support the cities that sustain the state's tourism economy while maintaining essential services for both visitors, residents and property owners.

With thanks,

Lynn Epstein
Cannon Beach, OR — homeowner