

Submitter: Jeff Cloninger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3962

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3962, which would allow local governments to redirect Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) funds away from tourism promotion. This change threatens the economic stability of Oregon's tourism industry and the small businesses that rely on visitor spending.

Key Concerns:

**Impact on Local Economies:** Tourism generates millions in tax revenue and supports thousands of jobs. Diverting TLT funds away from tourism promotion could reduce visitor spending and harm local businesses.

**Loss of Competitive Advantage:** Oregon's tourism sector has been a driving force in economic recovery. Weakening funding for destination marketing could make Oregon less competitive compared to neighboring states.

**Unintended Consequences:** The original intent of TLT was to support tourism-related initiatives. Expanding its use beyond this purpose undermines the industry's ability to sustain growth and attract visitors.

Rather than diverting TLT funds, I urge the legislature to preserve tourism investments that directly benefit Oregon's economy and local communities.

I respectfully request that you vote NO on HB 3962 to protect Oregon's tourism industry and ensure responsible tax policies that support economic growth.