

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 2977, which proposes an increase to the state transient lodging tax. As a member of a coastal community whose economy is deeply rooted in tourism, I urge you to consider the unintended consequences this legislation may have on the very communities it aims to support.

Tourism is not just a seasonal boost for us—it is the backbone of our local economy. From small family-run inns to local restaurants, shops, and recreational services, our livelihoods depend on visitors choosing Oregon as their destination. Increasing the lodging tax risks making our state less competitive, especially when travelers are already facing rising costs across the board.

Families are making difficult choices right now. Many are scaling back on leisure travel due to inflation and economic uncertainty. A higher lodging tax may be the tipping point that leads them to choose more affordable destinations elsewhere. This would not only hurt local businesses but also reduce the very tax revenues the bill seeks to increase.

While I support efforts to conserve Oregon's natural beauty and wildlife, I believe we must find more balanced and sustainable funding mechanisms—ones that do not jeopardize the economic stability of communities that rely on tourism to survive.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider the impact of HB 2977 and work with stakeholders to find a solution that supports both conservation and the economic vitality of Oregon's tourism communities.

Sincerely,

Sherry McCroskey

Seaside, Oregon