



CITY OF PORTLAND

Budget and Finance Service Area

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House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
900 Court Street NE, HR C
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Tran, Vice Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Portland's Revenue Division, I am writing to express our support of House Bill 3556.

Portland's dynamic culinary scene, unique events and festivals, extensive recreation opportunities, and diverse neighborhoods and markets have helped to make our community a destination for visitors. That local tourism plays a critical role in our economy. At the same time, the influx of visitors puts more demand on public infrastructure and public safety resources.

The City of Portland has multiple local agreements in place that dictate how our TLT revenues are allocated, which will not change if HB 3556 is enacted. While this bill does not change Portland's financial picture in any way, we strongly support broadening the strict requirement that at least 70% of new or increased revenue from the Transient Lodging Tax go toward tourism promotion or tourism-related facilities. Allowing tourism-rich communities to put those resources into tourism-impacted infrastructure and services is common sense – especially during these challenging times when cities are being asked to do more with less.

This legislation acknowledges that providing public safety services and sustaining essential infrastructure are integral to a thriving tourism economy. Rather than redirecting funds away from tourism, it reinforces the long-term viability of the sector by addressing the direct impacts of visitor activity on local services and infrastructure, ensuring a safe and high-quality experience for both residents and visitors.

Advancing Oregon as a tourism destination is important for our local businesses, economy and governments. Supporting the infrastructure and services to support that tourism also matters.

This is a common-sense adjustment to meet the needs of the day. I urge your support of House Bill 3556.

Sincerely,

Thomas Lannom
Director, City of Portland Revenue Division

Have questions, need translation, or interpretation? Call (503) 823-5157 or send a secure message online at Pro.Portland.gov.

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