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OREGON STATE SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
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PO Box 7468 Salem OR 97303

To: **House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans**

From: Sheriff Matt Phillips, Clatsop County
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: March 20, 2025

Re: **HB 3556 – Testimony in Support
Transient Lodging Tax – Addressing Public Safety Tourism Impacts**

Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is **Matt Phillips**. I am the Sheriff of Clatsop County, and I am testifying today on behalf of the **Oregon State Sheriffs' Association (OSSA)** and the **Oregon Association Chiefs of Police (OACP)** in strong support of **HB 3556**. This bill is critical to ensuring that communities impacted by tourism can maintain safe and sustainable environments for both residents and visitors.

Oregon's tourism industry draws millions of visitors annually, providing significant economic benefits across the state. However, the influx of tourists also places immense strain on public safety resources in communities that must respond to increased calls for service, higher arrest rates, more traffic-related incidents, and added pressure on local jail capacity. The burden of maintaining public safety in high-tourism areas falls largely on local law enforcement, often without sufficient funding to meet these growing demands.

HB 3556 provides a necessary solution by allowing Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenue more flexibility to be used in support of tourism impacted services and help these communities manage the increased public safety challenges associated with tourism. This legislation will not only enhance public safety but also create a more secure and welcoming environment for visitors and residents alike.

For these reasons, OSSA and OACP strongly encourage your support of HB 3556. Thank you for your consideration and commitment to keeping Oregon's communities safe.