

# Testimony in Support of HB3556

History and Rationale for Necessary Changes to TLT

## Introduction

Esteemed members of the Committee,

I am providing written testimony in support of House Bill 3556, which proposes needed changes to the Tax Levy Transparency (TLT) system. This bill aims to enhance the ability of local governments to improve the safety of those visiting our community.

## History of the Tax Levy Transparency (TLT) System

The TLT system was first implemented in the early 2000s as a method to increase local tourism in our communities. The change to TLT required us to spend 70% on tourism and there was a consensus that the change would be reevaluated later. The time for that reevaluation has long passed.

## Reasons for Needed Changes

To address these challenges, HB3556 proposes critical changes to the TLT system. Below are the key reasons why these changes are necessary:

### The Original Bill Has Fulfilled Its Objectives

In Tillamook County we have changed from increased tourism to tourism management. Our citizens have said no more tourists! We are at tourism capacity. We are a county with a population of 26,000 that doubles or even triples during the tourist season. This has put tremendous stress on our public safety system. We do not have the financial resources to keep up our roads and provide public safety resources for our residents and visitors alike.

### Needed Change

Allowing public safety as a tourism-related expense is a necessary change to enhance the safety and well-being of those visiting our county. This minor change in wording will have a tremendous impact on our ability to provide necessary funding to enhance the safety of our visitors.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the proposed changes outlined in HB3556 are essential for addressing the long-standing issues within the TLT system. The review of the TLT is long overdue. I urge you to support HB3556 and help us achieve these critical goals for the betterment of our tourists and community!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bill Baertlein, retired Tillamook County commissioner