



David Dreher
400 SW 1st Street
Corvallis, Oregon 97333
davidd@nwxsouthern.com
3/19/25

RE: Opposition to HB 3556

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans:

My name is David Dreher, and I am a Regional Vice President for NSH Hospitality (5 hotels in Oregon); a Board Member of Visit Corvallis and a original Board Member of the new Downtown Corvallis Organization in Corvallis. I appreciate the opportunity to share my concerns about HB 3556 and respectfully urge you to oppose this bill.

Tourism is not just about visitors—it supports local businesses, creates jobs, and brings money into our communities. The Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) was designed to fund tourism efforts, helping towns and cities across Oregon attract visitors who spend money at restaurants, shops, and local events. HB 3556 would take money away from these efforts and redirect it elsewhere, even though tourism already helps fund city services through its tax revenue.

Many believe that all tourism organizations receive 70% of TLT funds, but that's not true. In **Corvallis**, only 30% of the City's 9% goes to tourism, while the rest helps fund other city services. Benton County also has a 3% lodging tax, of which 70% helps fund the Benton County Fairgrounds and Event Center, and the remaining 30% is retained for their general fund. Even with this setup, there are still budget gaps. This bill won't fix those—it will only make it harder for tourism to bring in the dollars that support our community.

Tourism is ALL of our business in the hotel business or at least a good majority of our business. The hotel industry and our hotels depend on Visit Corvallis and other type organizations and cities/counties to drive hotel guests to our different locations.

Additionally, tourism businesses pay more than lodging taxes—they also pay property taxes, licensing fees, and other local taxes that help fund essential city and county services. A strong tourism economy benefits everyone, and reducing tourism funding could actually lower overall tax revenue for cities and counties.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3556. Tourism is an investment in our community, and protecting TLT funds ensures that our cities, small businesses, and local events continue to thrive. HB 3556 simply does not work for any hotel in the great State of Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Dreher- Regional VP
NSH Hospitality