

Dear Co-Chairs Helm, Owens, Vice Chair McDonald and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alanna Kieffer and I am the owner of Shifting Tides.

Thank you for taking your time to read and understand my opposition to HB3356, and any attempts – for that matter – to change the 70/30 Transient Lodging (TLT) split or any of the definitions around usage of those funds, as created by HB 2267 back in 2003.

As a sustainable seafood and marine science tour guide on the Oregon Coast, my livelihood is heavily connected to the money visitors bring into our community. I also encourage visitors to source local Oregon Coast goods and services while visiting the area to further support our economy and small businesses.

I believe that a reduction in people visiting our community and vacationing here could directly or indirectly harm my business and personal financial standing.

Please protect my livelihood. This conversation extends far beyond the tourism industry itself, as the new money brought here circulates throughout our community and will affect many businesses, such as mine. The culture and value of our rural coastline relies on so many small businesses who rely heavily on our tourism.

Furthermore, it is becoming much more widely known that most coastal city and county general funds already keep more than 50% of the TLT collected, due to grandfathered laws prior to the 2003 HB2267. They can already use their portion for services and infrastructure. We must protect our ability to ensure people do not forget our community is a great place to visit and spend their money to support the livelihoods of our families and businesses such as mine.

Respectfully,

Alanna Kieffer

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