



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

March 19, 2025

To: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Re: Language Clarification Request in Support of HB 3556 – Extending Permissible Uses of Transient Lodging Tax

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

Deschutes County supports HB 3556 with an amendment that includes language clarifying that the bill only applies to *newly* implemented taxes or increases to existing taxes, after receiving voter approval. The current allocations to Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) would continue, however, the County supports the opportunity to have greater flexibility in Transient Lodging Tax revenue spending to include public safety services and certain costs related to "community infrastructure" for newly implemented taxes.

Central Oregon continues to be a premium destination for tourism and with that comes increased pressures on our local public safety and infrastructure support. The County would like the ability to address those needs by, in part, having the flexibility to seek additional voter approved funding sources and the ability to use potential future funding sources to best meet those needs.

We strongly support and advocate for our thriving tourism industry and the value it brings to the local economy. The success of the tourism industry in Central Oregon is a credit to the work and efforts generated by our regional DMOs and we look forward to continuing collaboration by working with our local and state partners in the tourism industry. Thank you for your consideration.

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

Anthony DeBone
Chair

Patti Adair
Vice Chair

Phil Chang
Commissioner

CC: Senators Anthony Broadman, Diane Linthicum, and Mike McLane
Representatives Vikki Breese Iverson, Jason Kropf, Emerson Levy, E. Werner Reschke, and Mark Owens