



555 20th Street PO Box 310 Port Orford, OR 97465

March 20, 2025

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Request to Move House Bill 3556 to the House Committee on Revenue Without Recommendation

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

I am writing to express the City of Port Orford's support for greater flexibility in use of TLT funds. I urge you to refer House Bill 3556 to the House Committee on Revenue without recommendation, to allow for a thorough financial and policy review.

This bill is crucial to ensuring that tourism-impacted communities can address the pressures of maintaining safe and sustainable environments for both residents and visitors.

Tourism draws millions of visitors to Oregon's scenic areas each year, bringing economic benefits but also placing immense strain on local services, particularly public safety. HB 3556 would allow local governments to allocate new or increased Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenues to essential services like emergency response, law enforcement, and infrastructure, which are critical to managing the impacts of tourism.

Under the current 70/30 funding structure mandated by ORS 320.350, 70% of new TLT revenue must be directed toward tourism promotion and facilities, leaving only 30% for discretionary use. This allocation fails to reflect the significant burden tourism places on essential services.

The challenges are particularly acute in small cities in rural areas, like ours, where we have limited staff. HB 3556 offers a solution by empowering tourism-impacted communities to use TLT funds where we need it most. Ensuring public safety is vital not only for residents but also for sustaining a vibrant tourism economy.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the movement of HB 3556 to the House Committee on Revenue without recommendation. A comprehensive review will ensure stakeholders can engage in more meaningful discussions on how to best support communities affected by tourism.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Thank you,



Ann Vileisis, Mayor
City of Port Orford

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