

Submitter: Douglas Coombs
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3556

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my concern regarding Oregon House Bill 3556, which proposes the diversion of transient lodging tax revenue for non-tourism purposes. As a local business owner of Alesong Brewing & Blending, which depends on tourism, I strongly oppose this bill.

The transient lodging tax has long been an essential source of funding to support tourism-related activities, including marketing and infrastructure that directly benefit businesses like mine. My brewery relies on the steady influx of visitors who come to Oregon, attracted by the tourism initiatives that the tax was designed to support. Diverting these funds away from tourism purposes not only opens up the possibility for future diversions, but in the more near term, could harm local economies, including small businesses, hotels, and breweries like mine, which depend on continued investment in promoting the state as a tourist destination.

As a member of the local business community, I urge you to reconsider this bill and prioritize the interests of Oregon's tourism-driven economy, rather than opening these tourism generated funds up to be used for initiatives and services that should be supported by local governments. Without continued support for tourism, it's hard to imagine a world where we see the same visitor traffic and corresponding revenue coming into our communities.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I hope you will stand in support of tourism businesses across the state by opposing this bill.

Sincerely,
Douglas Coombs
Founder, Alesong Brewing & Blending