

Submitter: Maryann Carbaugh
On Behalf Of: Christmas in the Pines
Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3556

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and members of the committee,

My name is Maryann Carbaugh, and I am a proud member of Christmas in the Pines in Prineville, Oregon. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3556, which I believe would have a significant negative impact on our community events and local traditions.

Christmas in the Pines has become a cherished drive-through Christmas Lights event that brings families, friends, and visitors together to celebrate the holiday season. This event not only fosters community spirit but also plays a crucial role in supporting local businesses and organizations. HB 3556 introduces regulations that would place unnecessary burdens on events like ours, making it more difficult to organize and sustain these important gatherings.

Our team of dedicated volunteers works hard each year to ensure Christmas in the Pines is safe, well-coordinated, and enjoyable for all attendees. However, our limited budget makes it challenging to promote the event effectively. We rely heavily on tourism dollars and the support of our local Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) Explore Prineville and the Prineville Crook County Chamber of Commerce to help us promote Christmas in the Pines and attract visitors to Prineville. The additional restrictions and requirements proposed in HB 3556 would create financial and logistical challenges that could jeopardize the future of this beloved tradition.

I urge you to carefully consider the impact this bill would have on community-driven events like Christmas in the Pines. Our event has a positive influence on the local economy, strengthens our community bonds, and creates lasting memories for residents and visitors alike. Please oppose HB 3556 to help us continue bringing joy to our community each holiday season.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maryann Carbaugh
Member, Christmas in the Pines
Prineville, Oregon

