



Office of Mayor Kim Morris

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

RE: Support HB 3556 Local Lodging Tax Flexibility

Dear Chair Tran and Members of the Committee,

The City of McMinnville supports HB 3556 because it adds “tourism-impacted services” as an allowable use in the restricted 70% portion of local lodging tax funds. These services include public safety (fire, EMS, and police) and community infrastructure (water, wastewater, transportation, parks, trails and public amenities). In 2003, the state passed a preemption on local transient lodging taxes that established restrictions around how local lodging tax dollars could be spent, requiring at least 70% of new or increased taxes to go toward tourism promotion and tourism-related facilities and reserving the remaining 30% for local discretionary spending.

Under the existing definitions of tourism promotion and tourism-related facilities, it leaves local jurisdictions only so much leeway to respond to the impacts of tourism. Today, our community bears the burden of maintaining and operating infrastructure that directly benefits tourists. With the HB 3556 change, the City of McMinnville would be able to invest and maintain in public safety and other critical infrastructure impacted by visitors.

As the Mayor of the City of McMinnville, I urge your support for HB 3556.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Morris".

Kim Morris
Mayor, City of McMinnville
C: 971.901.2084