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March 19, 2025

Dear Chair Tran and Members of the House Committee on
Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans

On behalf of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the businesses, organizations and individuals we represent throughout Douglas County, I urge you to oppose HB 3556 for the protection of local tourism and small business.

HB 3556 would divert transient lodging tax (TLT) revenues away from its intended purpose of local tourism promotion to fund public safety and community infrastructure. While these services are important, this shift would come at the expense of tourism marketing, which fuels local economies and supports small businesses.

It has been our long-standing policy at the Roseburg Area Chamber to advocate for our local tourism-industry businesses and against proposed legislation that would severely impact the ability to attract visitors to our community and state. Tourism promotion drives local jobs, supports small businesses and keeps local communities thriving. Reducing funds for tourism marketing will hurt the very industries that rely on visitor spending.

If passed, HB 3556 could undermine the long-term success of tourism-related small businesses in Douglas County and across Oregon. These dedicated TLT funds are not just for tourism promotion. TLT funds are also used to enhance visitor experiences, support tourism infrastructure, tourism-related facilities, events, grant-making and research.

Voting no on HB 3556 ensures local lodging taxes in Oregon are utilized as intended—to promote tourism and support tourism-related facilities. It is important these funds continue to be used to put “heads in beds” in our local hotels, B & Bs, lodges, resorts and campgrounds. These TLT promotional dollars also attract visitors to our incredible local wineries, all of which are small businesses in Douglas County. Visitors to our area also spend money at local restaurants, attractions, events, gas stations and retail shops, many of these are small businesses as well. Tourism-industry businesses do more than just generate TLT funds, they also contribute through property taxes, licensing fees and other local taxes that support critical services provided by local governments, not to mention the citizens they employ.

Please support our local tourism industry and our small rural businesses and keep tourism development sustainable in Douglas County and Oregon. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
DOUGLAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM
President & CEO



To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.

To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.