



Date: February 20, 2018

To: House Speaker Tina Kotek and
Members of the Oregon House of Representatives

From: Greg Astley, Director of Government Affairs
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association

Subject: Please Support House Bill 4120

House Speaker Kotek and Representatives,

Please support HB 4120. For Oregon's tourism and hospitality industry, it's a matter of fairness and equality.

HB 4120 does not impose any new taxes; it does not increase, decrease or otherwise change the transient lodging tax. HB 4120 merely clarifies a point of law that was already passed back in 2003. HB 4120 closes a loophole, ensuring that those third-party intermediaries who collect lodging payments from visitors on short term vacation rentals remit the lodging taxes owed.

For Oregon's lodging properties, this bill is about treating everyone the same when a room, a cabin or a house is rented by a visitor to Oregon. Right now, it is too easy for transient lodging hosts to avoid paying taxes owed to local government because third party intermediaries are not required to collect the taxes when they collect payment for the lodging stay.

The technology exists for any business who collects the transient lodging payment to also collect the correlating lodging tax. Members of the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association, small and large, throughout the state of Oregon, currently remit lodging tax to multiple government agencies. There is no reason why third-party intermediaries cannot and should not be required to do the same when collecting lodging payments.

For Oregon's cities and counties, who face increasing budget constraints from higher labor costs, retirement costs and health care costs, it's about collecting money already owed to them. HB 4120 does not require these third-party intermediaries to do anything other than remit the full taxes owed. In partnership with the League of Oregon Cities, the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association is urging a yes vote on HB 4120.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Astley", is written over a horizontal line.

Greg Astley, Director of Government Affairs
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association