



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Vote Explanation on HB 4047

TO: Timothy Sekerak, Chief Clerk, Oregon House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Courtney Neron
DATE: 24 February 2020
RE: Vote Explanation, HB 4047

Oregon has been chosen as the site of the 2021 World Track and Field Championships – an international event that will bring attention and thousands of visitors to our wonderful state. I am supportive of this historic event and the state investments that we have committed to help support it. However, I have serious concerns about the stewardship of this increase in transient lodging tax funds following a recent audit of Travel Oregon.

One of the most solemn duties of a legislator is to ensure that public dollars are used effectively and efficiently, and I take that job very seriously. At a time when we are struggling to come up with the funding we need to address the needs of our homeless population, allocating resources to an agency that has been mismanaging valuable public dollars does not seem fair or just. The bloated executive salaries for Travel Oregon are simply unacceptable, which is why I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve oversight during the next Legislative Session. The sunset for this tax provided a critical opportunity to evaluate the costs and benefits of investments in Travel Oregon, and I want to make sure that future extensions of the tax include sunset provisions, so that Legislatures can weigh in as I have. I voted ‘no’ on HB 4047 because I believe we must ensure that this public/private organization is held responsible for how they distribute taxpayer dollars. We must do more work to ensure that Travel Oregon is prioritizing its resources better support the needs of the hardworking Oregonians who rely on our tourism industry.

As stewards of the public trust, we must focus our limited resources where they can have the biggest impact on improving the lives of Oregonians. Thank you for considering my vote explanation on my no vote on HB 4047.

