From: <u>Prashant Kakad</u>

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: Written support for continuation of Tourism Improvement District and Hospitality Recovery Surcharge

Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:22:11 AM

As an independent artist & business owner in inner South East in Portland, I want to share with you that my business has benefitted from Portland's growth in tourism over the last five plus years and I support Travel Portland and their work for our destination. Not having visitors in the city because of Covid-19 shows how valuable visitors are to my business and livelihood.

I would like to share my support for the continuation of the Tourism Improvement District fee and also share my support for the 1% increase for the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery fee for five years.

This will make a big difference to my business. Thank you.

Sincerely, Prashant Kakad Bollywood Dreams Entertainment Bollywooddreamsofficial@gmail.com From: <u>Slabtown</u>

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: Written support for continuation of Tourism Improvement District and Hospitality Recovery Surcharge

Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:29:32 AM

To the Portland City Council,

As an independent tour company operating in multiple neighborhoods throughout Portland, I want to share with you that my business has benefitted from Portland's growth in tourism over the last five plus years and I support Travel Portland and their work for our destination. Not having tourists in the city because of Covid-19 shows how valuable visitors are to my business and livelihood.

I would like to share my support for the continuation of the Tourism Improvement District fee and also share my support for the 1% increase for the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery fee for five years.

These fees will make a big difference to my business.

Sincerely,

Red Gillen

Slabtown Language Works, LLC (Portland, Ore)

e: info@slabtownlanguageworks.com

m: +1.415.290.6385 o: +1.971.303.9301 From: <u>Naoko Tamura</u>

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: RE: written support for continuation of Tourism Improvement District and Hospitality Recovery Surcharge

Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:54:55 AM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

As an independent woman-owned restaurant owner in downtown Portland, I want to share with you that my business has benefitted from Portland's growth in tourism over the last five plus years and I support Travel Portland and their work for our destination. Not having visitors in the city because of Covid-19 shows how valuable visitors are to my business and livelihood.

My restaurant used to have a lot of business from tourists, especially during the summer, which compensated for local customers who left the city. I would like to have international visitors just like before.

I would like to share my support for the continuation of the Tourism Improvement District fee and also share my support for the 1% increase for the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery fee for five years.

This will make a big difference to my business and employees. Thank you.

hizulin

Sincerely,

Naoko Tamura Chef Naoko

naokot@chefnaoko.com

Chef Naoko Corporation

1237 SW Jefferson St. Portland, OR 97201

Tel: 503-227-4136 www.shizukupdx.com

YouTube Channel

Online Store

From: Yuka Owen

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: written support for continuation of Tourism Improvement District and Hospitality Recovery Surcharge

Date: Monday, March 1, 2021 12:29:33 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

As an independent business in Loyd District in Portland, I want to share with you that my business has benefitted from Portland's growth in tourism over the last five plus years and I support Travel Portland and their work for our destination. Not having visitors in the city because of Covid-19 shows how valuable visitors are to my business and livelihood.

I would like to share my support for the continuation of the Tourism Improvement District fee and also share my support for the 1% increase for the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery fee for five years.

This will make a big difference to my business and employees. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Yuka Owen

Portland English Language Academy email: yuka@portlandenglish.edu

Address: 2007 Lloyd Center Portland, Oregon 97232 USA

phone: 503-226-1656

web: www.portlandenglish.edu

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pelaenglish



From: Robert Hertert

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>
Cc: <u>Robert Jordan; Jill Palamountain</u>

Subject: March 3, 2021 Counsel agenda item: Tourism Improvement District

Date:Monday, March 1, 2021 2:30:23 PMAttachments:Tourism Improvement District 3-3-2021.pdf

Please include attached letter

Sincerely,

Rob Hertert president@host2host.org



Mr. Mingus Mapps Commissioner, Portland City Council Portland City Hall 1221 SW 4th Avenue Portland. OR 97204

Subj: Support for Travel Portland's TID request

Dear Commissioner Mapps:

Host2Host supports Travel Portland's request to increase the Tourism Improvement District tax from 2% to 3% for a period of five years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Travel Portland's financial resources have been severely diminished. The temporary increase will provide much-needed immediate support.

As you know, we are a nonprofit trade association representing short term rental hosts who use platforms like Airbnb and VRBO. Our hosts have been adversely impacted by the pandemic but also by Portland's currently tarnished image. We need to ensure that the world remembers Portland is a safe, authentic, exciting destination of choice. A healthy Travel Portland is needed to get the word out.

Short term rental tax revenue helps support Travel Portland. Other taxes and fees from STRs provide substantial support to the Portland Housing Fund, estimated at \$6.8 million in 2019.

Host2Host supports Travel Portland's request so the City can attract the level of tourism that supports everyone.

Sincerely,

Rob Hertert

President, Host2Host

Cc: Mayor Ted Wheeler, Commissioners Carmen Rubio, Jo Ann Hardesty, Dan Ryan; President and CEO, Travel Portland, Jeff Miller.

From: <u>Meghan Sinnott</u>

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: Written support for continuation of TID and Hospitality Recovery Surcharge

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:47:30 AM

To whom it may concern,

As an independent business owner who supports makers throughout all of the Portland Metro Area, I want to share with you that my business and the businesses of the hundreds of local makers I represent have benefitted from Portland's growth in tourism over the last five plus years. I am thankful for Travel Portland and their work for our destination, especially their support of the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color-owned businesses Portland Made works with. Not having visitors in the city because of Covid-19 shows how valuable visitors are to my business and livelihood of our community.

I would like to share my support for the continuation of the Tourism Improvement District (TID) fee and also share my support for the 1% increase for the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery fee for five years.

This will make a big difference to my business and the many small businesses of Portland that I work with every day. Thank you.

Sincerely,		
	?	

From: <u>bridgid blackburn</u>
To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: Written support for continuation of Tourism Improvement District and Hospitality Recovery Surcharge

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:56:05 AM

As an independently owned retailer in the Central Eastside in Portland, my business & Portland's small business community has benefited greatly from Portland's growth in tourism over the last five plus years. We have seen first hand the great work that Travel Portland has done to promote the city of Portland as a travel destination domestically & internationally.

I strongly support Travel Portland and their work for our destination. Not having visitors in the city because of Covid-19 has demonstrated how valuable visitors are to my business and livelihood. Additionally, the city's small businesses and restaurants have deeply felt the loss of visitors to the city's convention center.

I would like to share my support for the continuation of the Tourism Improvement District fee and also share my support for the 1% increase for the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery fee for five years. This will make a big difference to my business and employees. Thank you.

Best Wishes,

Bridgid Blackburn

Cargo Inc 81 SE Yamhill Portland, OR 97214

503.421.6406

bridgidblackburn@me.com

From: KANEMASU

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Cc: Yoko Furukawa

Subject: Written support for continuation of Tourism Improvement District and Hospitality Recovery Surcharge

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:47:24 PM

Dear City of Portland,

This email is to express my support for the continuation of the Tourism Improvement District (TID) Fee and 1% increase for the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Fee for next 5 years.

My company is a receptive land operator specialized in coordinating tour programs and project management for incoming clients from Japan.

This is our 8th year of operation. I truly value the continuous support from Travel Portland for cultivating new business opportunities as well as providing us a series of educational workshops, seminars, and empowering ourselves with better networking with a variety of different fields of work.

Last September (in 2020), Travel Portland assisted my company to virtually attend the Travel Convention in Japan. We have been exploring new ways to do our business to keep our business alive by thinking outside the box.

A few years ago, Travel Portland designed a small pin saying, "All is Welcome". That pin has been my favorite because that is what our hospitality industry is all about. Travel Portland has been working on it for decades for all staff, partners, and visitors from all over the world.

I am a woman, Asian, and I speak English as a second language. I am a community member, a volunteer for multiple organizations in the Portland vicinity, and I am a company owner partnering Travel Portland which enables more people to welcome and be welcomed in the vibrant city of Portland.

Your consideration for my testimonial is greatly appreciated for the continuous support for Travel Portland to make its mission possible.

Sincerely,

Rie Nakata Owner, KANEMASU LLC www.kanemasu.us rie@kanemasu.us (503) 830-4782 From: Brett L. Wilkerson
To: Council Clerk – Testimony

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:44:37 PM

I am writing my testimony to be included in the TID approval process. We are very supportive of Travel Portland and all their efforts around tourism. The TID has been and will continue to be an integral part of our tourism efforts. We are requesting a few minor changes we think we improve the TID process.

We are requesting a separate TID board be established that is separate from members of the Travel Portland board. It should primarily be made up of owners or owner reps with a diverse representation. We are also requesting that any program only be approved for 5 years and reevaluated at that time.

Brett Wilkerson CEO/President North Pacific/Coho 7200 NE 41st street Vancouver, Wa 98662 From: S Jones

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: Written testimony on items 120 & 121

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:03:49 PM

I would like to provide written testimony on items 120 & 121 relating to the Tourism Improvement District periodic sunset review, and the amendment to add a surcharge. I am a hotel investor/owner in hotels at Portland Airport. This past week it came to my attention that Travel Portland is proposing an additional surcharge. This is the first I have learned of this proposal. On a call on 3/1/2021 with Jeff Miller, Mike Daley, and several other hotel owners from the Portland Airport area and other areas outside the Portland Downtown, we discussed this proposal and it was clear from the ownership group present that we need more time to discuss and review this surcharge and amendments.

I recommend that these 2 items be tabled at the 3/3/2021 city council meeting, and further dialogue needs to take place with the entire hotel community that pays this surcharge, not just downtown hotels.

Some of the observations from the call was that there is a lack of diversity on the Travel Portland Board of Directors and the TID Board. On the Travel Portland Board (see 2nd QTR 2020 report), there are no hotel representatives from hotels outside of Portland Downtown. The board is representative of downtown, large, full service hotels that require a large % of their customer base from conventions. Most of these hotels by the way are owned by institutional, wall street type ownership groups; whereas the suburban hotels are owned mostly by Portland-based hotel owners who live/work/hire/spend their income locally. Hotels in Portland Airport and Jantzen Beach and other non CBD areas do not rely on convention business to be successful; contrary to the strategy of downtown hotels. Funds raised from all hotels should be proportioned to marketing efforts based on different needs of different areas, not just downtown hotels. The Travel Portland board and the TID board need to be representative of the entire hotel community, there needs to be more diversity and inclusion on the boards.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Stan Jones
Station Hospitality, LLC
9189 NE Cascades Parkway
Portland, OR 97220
seattlejones@gmail.com

From: <u>Jay Patel</u>

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u> **Subject:** TID TAX HOTEL/MOTEL

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:05:06 PM

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, PLEASE DO NOT RAISE THIS TAX NOW.it is not the time to collect or raise tax. Our industry is going through Pandemic. No one is travelling Please use reserve funds or ask other to join our marketing campaign and share it.

Sincerely,

Jay kumar Patel Cell 503 539 6721

Off 503 774 8876

Fax 503 788 9473

Please excuse any typos.

Email Disclaimer

This Email contains confidential information belonging to the sender, which may be legally privilege information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity addressed above. If you are not the intended recipient or an employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, coping, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of the E-mail or attached files is strictly prohibited.

From: <u>Arvind Patel</u>

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: Written Testimony to Travel Portland Agenda items on 3/3 City Council Meeting: Item 120 and 121

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:16:42 PM

Hello,

I am writing this testimony in opposition of the desire for Travel Portland to eliminate

the periodic sunset review of the Tourism Improvement District two percent license fee as required by City Code Section 6.05.130. By eliminating this review, the City will be removing accountability from Travel Portland and allowing the organization to continue operating with very little oversight or transparency. Since the TID was introduced in 2012, Travel Portland has utilized the majority of their funds through this program to promote and help the convention center and downtown core. Little help has been offered to areas outside of downtown. With hotel supply at its all time highest in Portland, City Council is going to allow Travel Portland to collect the two percent fee in perpetuity. While this does not seem like a big deal now, once hotel demand returns to Portland, Travel Portland will benefit and see a significant increase in contributions through the TID. What was around \$10m to \$12m in 2019, could just to \$15m to \$18m by 2025. Removing this sunset review means the City will never be able to re-evaluate the amount of funds it will continue to send to one organization.

I am also opposed to the one percent fee increase that Travel Portland is proposing to the TID program. As mentioned, this program has primarily benefited the convention center and downtown. Travel Portland continues to maintain a board of directors that are comprised of downtown Portland Hotel General Managers. Based on the history of Travel Portland's spending, there is a clear conflict of interest with Travel Portland's board. At no point were the majority of Hotel OWNERS consulted when considering this tax increase. Travel Portland has a SEVERE lack of DIVERSITY on its Board of Directors. This one percent increase is going to have an impact on smaller motels and their owners. These property fight for business, with every dollar meaning something. At no point did Travel Portland take into consideration the negative impact this increase would have on properties outside of the big Downtown Hotels. Many of these small motels are minority owned small businesses. There has been NO EVIDENCE of Travel Portland's efforts helping these motels. Why should they be included in the tax increase? You as City Council are going to force these businesses to charge higher taxes in order to benefit the large downtown hotels. Hotels that are owned by corporations and private equity firms. The fact that Travel Portland has consistently kept a Board of Directors that is downtown focused is the problem! There is NO DIVERSITY. There is no perspective of how hotels owned by local SMALL BUSINESSES will be impacted.

As City Council, you are tasked with looking out for the best interest of Porland. The City as a whole, not just Downtown! These proposals by Travel Portland are an attempt to reduce their accountability and increase their funding. When tourism and business return to Portland, what power will we have to reduce the amount of funds being allocated to Travel Portland? At what point do you consider the amount too much? These proposals by Travel Portland paves the way to an annual \$20m contribution through TID alone within the next 10 years. If you allow for these changes, City Council is telling the small business owners of this City that you care more about helping your own personal relationships then looking out for the best interest of its people.

Arvind G. Patel

Canterbury Group, Inc.

P.O. Box 56150 Portland, Oregon, 97238-7556 M | 503.708.5404 Fax | 503.542.7557 arvind@asmhotels.com Confidentiality Notice: This email transmission and its attachments, if any, are confidential and intended only for the use of particular persons and entities. This message may be an attorney-client communication or work product, and as such is privileged or confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient and/or you have received this email in error, you must take no action based on the information in this email and you are hereby notified that any dissemination, misuse or copying or disclosure of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by email and delete the original message.

From: Alkesh Patel

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: Item 121 Written Testimony Re Increase of TID

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 10:11:58 AM

Dear Council Members:

My name is Alkesh Patel. I am a hotel owner in Portland and also a Past Chairman of AAHOA. I am against the proposed increase of 1% to TID. With current state of hospitality industry and proposal to include motels and hotels under 50 units to be included will add additional burden without direct benefits to our properties. I am for keeping the program in place as is till 2025 and it should be revisited based on the progress we see in the coming years.

Thank you.

Alkesh Patel, Chairman & CEO

Evergreen Hospitality Development Group, LLC 1419 W Main Street, Suite 110 Battle Ground, WA 98604 360-723-0024 www.EvergreenHDG.com

From: Mr. Maulin Patel

To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Agenda Item 147 TID Increase
Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:25:44 PM
Attachments: TID 1% draft letter - MPP.pdf

Please find attached a letter regarding my opposition to the TID increase of 1%.

Best, Maulin

Maulin P. Patel | Principal | MIG Hotels | (503) 957-4089 | maulin@mighotels.com

March 8, 2021

Dear City Councilmen and Councilwomen,

I am an owner and operator of an economy-tier motel in the City of Portland called the La Quinta Inn & Suites Portland Northwest.

Please accept this letter as my opposition to Travel Portland's proposed one percent (1%) increase to the TID Tax. Similar to the existing TID fees imposed on my motel, this increase in tax will inevitably hurt my business, customers and employees, with no real benefit to the motel. As a minority, small-business owner, my family's financial well-being relies on the motel performing to provide for us.

My motel caters to the budget conscious traveler, demand that is typically comprised of guests with very limited economic means. While this lodging tax is meant to drive more visitation from out of state travelers to the City, the targeted demographic is never one that will stay at my motel. My property accommodates local demand, as well as some seasonal travelers that need low-priced temporary lodging during their stay in the area. This type of business is generally the same for most budget motels in the City of Portland. These properties will accommodate the demand most large franchise or boutique hotels will not. In addition to local guests who need a place to stay for the night, our demand can include families that may be in a domestic situation or non-profit organizations that help find temporary lodging to those in need. Motels in Portland are not typically the lodging facilities you would think of if you are a leisure traveler visiting the City. That is often a large hotel in downtown or a branded hotel by the airport.

Supporters of this tax increase have been quick to marginalize the impact of 1%. This would be a mistake. It is important to remember that motels 50-rooms or less were not supposed to be included in the TID, per the original guidelines. When this was amended years ago, motels were negatively impacted since guests were required to pay an additional 2% for the existing TID. Proponents of this 1% increase in the local lodging industry will never understand the challenge because they cater to customers with the means to afford it. Not to mention that those advocating for this increase represent hotel managers; individuals who have no financial ties to the hotel and will receive their compensation regardless of the impact this will have on their guests. It is clear this requested increase was proposed without the consultation of those small business owners that will impacted most. Again, I am faced with that fact City Council may force additional burdens on my business through imposed taxes to my guests, risking my motel's ability to provide for my family. My fellow motel owners and I feel the pressure from guests when they see the high lodging taxes imposed on them. It is hard for many of these travelers to understand having to pay an additional 15% lodging tax when the reason for their stay at the motel was affordability.

The scenario for this increase is very simple for my business: If the overall cost of the room increases, a budget traveler is more likely to shop around and stay outside of Portland. Meaning, I would lose out on the room rental. The only way to offset that would be to drop my rental rates even more to accommodate the increased taxes. The businesses have to run efficiently to survive. Lower revenues or

fewer rooms rented will then have a direct impact on staffing as employee work hours like for housekeeping will depend on demand levels.

For the most part, motels in Portland are owned and staffed by minorities. These properties, while small, are large providers in various minority communities.

Our City is already taxing those staying in lodging facilities over 15%. The existing 2% TID has proven to be more than enough to support marketing efforts for this City. TID is the largest contribution to Travel Portland's annual budget and has allowed them to retain a substantial surplus in the form of a healthy cash reserve position (nearly \$8 million). With so many new hotel's being opened in late 2019 and early 2020, this 2% TID will only increase over time since the City has even more rooms to generate lodging tax revenue. Travel Portland wanted to fix the City's image now, however that is something that will take years to do. Hotel demand fell dramatically due to fear throughout the Pandemic. Demand will return when that fear subsides. Increasing taxes to help market a City is irresponsible during a Pandemic and a default reaction because lodging tax generated in 2020 was extremely low. How does this resolve the fears most have with travel or for the virus itself? The answer: It doesn't.

I hope that you can understand my position, as this proposed increase in TID will impact different people in different ways. While some argue it will help the City, it is my hope that you understand it will come at the expense of hurting an entire class of people and small motel segment.

LA QUINTA INN & SUITES PORTLAND NW	4319 NW Yeon Ave, Portland, OR 97210		
Name of Facility	Address of Facility		

Owner Signature

From: Executive Lodge
To: Council Clerk – Testimony

Subject: Letter of opposition TID 1% increase City Council agenda Wednesday March 10, 2021

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:32:44 PM

March 8, 2021

Dear City Councilmen and Councilwomen,

I am an owner and operator of an economy-tier motel in the City of Portland.

Please accept this letter as my opposition to Travel Portland's proposed one percent (1%) increase to the TID Tax. Similar to the existing TID fees imposed on my motel, this increase in tax will inevitably hurt my business, customers and employees, with no real benefit to the motel. As a minority, small-business owner, my family's financial well-being relies on the motel performing to provide for us.

My motel caters to the budget conscious traveler, demand that is typically comprised of guests with very limited economic means. While this lodging tax is meant to drive more visitation from out of state travelers to the City, the targeted demographic is never one that will stay at my motel. My property accommodates local demand, as well as some seasonal travelers that need low-priced temporary lodging during their stay in the area. This type of business is generally the same for most budget motels in the City of Portland. These properties will accommodate the demand most large franchise or boutique hotels will not. In addition to local guests who need a place to stay for the night, our demand can include families that may be in a domestic situation or non-profit organizations that help find temporary lodging to those in need. Motels in Portland are not typically the lodging facilities you would think of if you are a leisure traveler visiting the City. That is often a large hotel in downtown or a branded hotel by the airport.

Supporters of this tax increase have been quick to marginalize the impact of 1%. This would be a mistake. It is important to remember that motels 50-rooms or less were not supposed to be included in the TID, per the original guidelines. When this was amended years ago, motels were negatively impacted since guests were required to pay an additional 2% for the existing TID. Proponents of this 1% increase in the local lodging industry will never understand the challenge because they cater to customers with the means to afford it. Not to mention that those advocating for this increase represent hotel managers; individuals who have no financial ties to the hotel and will receive their compensation regardless of the impact this will have on their guests. It is clear this requested increase was proposed without the consultation of those small business owners that will impacted most. Again, I am faced with that fact City Council may force additional burdens on my business through imposed taxes to my guests, risking my motel's ability to provide for my family. My fellow motel owners and I feel the pressure from guests when they see the high lodging taxes imposed on them. It is hard for many of these travelers to understand having to pay an additional 15% lodging tax when the reason for their stay at the motel was affordability.

The scenario for this increase is very simple for my business: If the overall cost of the room increases, a budget traveler is more likely to shop around and stay outside of Portland. Meaning, I would lose out on the room rental. The only way to offset that would be to drop my rental rates even more to accommodate the increased taxes. The businesses have to run efficiently to survive. Lower revenues or fewer rooms rented will then have a direct impact on staffing as employee work hours like for housekeeping will depend on demand levels.

For the most part, motels in Portland are owned and staffed by minorities. These properties, while small, are large providers in various minority communities.

Our City is already taxing those staying in lodging facilities over 15%. The existing 2% TID has proven to be more than enough to support marketing efforts for this City. TID is the largest contribution to Travel Portland's annual budget and has allowed them to retain a substantial surplus in the form of a healthy cash reserve position (nearly \$8 million). With so many new hotel's being opened in late 2019 and early 2020, this 2% TID will only increase over time since the City has even more rooms to generate lodging tax revenue. Travel Portland wanted to fix the City's image now, however that is something that will take years to do. Hotel demand fell dramatically due to fear throughout the Pandemic. Demand will return when that fear subsides. Increasing taxes to help market a City is irresponsible during a Pandemic and a default reaction because lodging tax generated in 2020 was extremely low. How does this resolve the fears most have with travel or for the virus itself? The answer: It doesn't.

I hope that you can understand my position, as this proposed increase in TID will impact different people in different ways. While some argue it will help the City, it is my hope that you understand it will come at the expense of hurting an entire class of people and small motel segment.

Executive lodge

Pratibha Patel

From: **Davesh Patel**

<u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u> To:

Subject: Letter of opposition TID 1% increase City Council agenda Wednesday March 10, 2021

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:33:45 PM

TID Letter.pdf ATT00001.txt Attachments:

Hello,

Attached is a letter and response to the TID increase.

March 8, 2021

Dear City Councilmen and Councilwomen,

I am an owner and operator of an economy-tier motel in the City of Portland.

Please accept this letter as my opposition to Travel Portland's proposed one percent (1%) increase to the TID Tax. Similar to the existing TID fees imposed on my motel, this increase in tax will inevitably hurt my business, customers and employees, with no real benefit to the motel. As a minority, small-business owner, my family's financial well-being relies on the motel performing to provide for us.

My motel caters to the budget conscious traveler, demand that is typically comprised of guests with very limited economic means. While this lodging tax is meant to drive more visitation from out of state travelers to the City, the targeted demographic is never one that will stay at my motel. My property accommodates local demand, as well as some seasonal travelers that need low-priced temporary lodging during their stay in the area. This type of business is generally the same for most budget motels in the City of Portland. These properties will accommodate the demand most large franchise or boutique hotels will not. In addition to local guests who need a place to stay for the night, our demand can include families that may be in a domestic situation or non-profit organizations that help find temporary lodging to those in need. Motels in Portland are not typically the lodging facilities you would think of if you are a leisure traveler visiting the City. That is often a large hotel in downtown or a branded hotel by the airport.

Supporters of this tax increase have been quick to marginalize the impact of 1%. This would be a mistake. It is important to remember that motels 50-rooms or less were not supposed to be included in the TID, per the original guidelines. When this was amended years ago, motels were negatively impacted since guests were required to pay an additional 2% for the existing TID. Proponents of this 1% increase in the local lodging industry will never understand the challenge because they cater to customers with the means to afford it. Not to mention that those advocating for this increase represent hotel managers; individuals who have no financial ties to the hotel and will receive their compensation regardless of the impact this will have on their guests. It is clear this requested increase was proposed without the consultation of those small business owners that will impacted most. Again, I am faced with that fact City Council may force additional burdens on my business through imposed taxes to my guests, risking my motel's ability to provide for my family. My fellow motel owners and I feel the pressure from guests when they see the high lodging taxes imposed on them. It is hard for many of these travelers to understand having to pay an additional 15% lodging tax when the reason for their stay at the motel was affordability.

The scenario for this increase is very simple for my business: If the overall cost of the room increases, a budget traveler is more likely to shop around and stay outside of Portland. Meaning, I would lose out on the room rental. The only way to offset that would be to drop my rental rates even more to accommodate the increased taxes. The businesses have to run efficiently to survive. Lower revenues or fewer rooms rented will then have a direct impact on staffing as employee work hours like for housekeeping will depend on demand levels.

For the most part, motels in Portland are owned and staffed by minorities. These properties, while small, are large providers in various minority communities.

Our City is already taxing those staying in lodging facilities over 15%. The existing 2% TID has proven to be more than enough to support marketing efforts for this City. TID is the largest contribution to Travel Portland's annual budget and has allowed them to retain a substantial surplus in the form of a healthy cash reserve position (nearly \$8 million). With so many new hotel's being opened in late 2019 and early 2020, this 2% TID will only increase over time since the City has even more rooms to generate lodging tax revenue. Travel Portland wanted to fix the City's image now, however that is something that will take years to do. Hotel demand fell dramatically due to fear throughout the Pandemic. Demand will return when that fear subsides. Increasing taxes to help market a City is irresponsible during a Pandemic and a default reaction because lodging tax generated in 2020 was extremely low. How does this resolve the fears most have with travel or for the virus itself? The answer: It doesn't.

I hope that you can understand my position, as this proposed increase in TID will impact different people in different ways. While some argue it will help the City, it is my hope that you understand it will come at the expense of hurting an entire class of people and small motel segment.

Name of Facility

Super 8 Motel

Address of Facility

121 NE 181st Ave. PorHand, OR

Owners Signature

From: Depan Patel

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: Letter of opposition TID 1% increase City Council agenda Wednesday March 10, 2021

Date:Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:41:37 PMAttachments:TID 1% draft letter - clean version.pdf

ATT00001.txt

Hello

Please see

Letter of opposition TID 1% increase City Council agenda Wednesday March 10, 2021

Securely signed with DocuSign®: http://www.docusign.com/try

March 8, 2021

Dear City Councilmen and Councilwomen,

I am an owner and operator of an economy-tier motel in the City of Portland.

Please accept this letter as my opposition to Travel Portland's proposed one percent (1%) increase to the TID Tax. Similar to the existing TID fees imposed on my motel, this increase in tax will inevitably hurt my business, customers and employees, with no real benefit to the motel. As a minority, small-business owner, my family's financial well-being relies on the motel performing to provide for us.

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For the most part, motels in Portland are owned and staffed by minorities. These properties, while small, are large providers in various minority communities.

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I hope that you can understand my position, as this proposed increase in TID will impact different people in different ways. While some argue it will help the City, it is my hope that you understand it will come at the expense of hurting an entire class of people and small motel segment.

Super 8 Portland Airport

11011 NE Holman St
Portland, OR 97220

Name of Facilit

Address of Facility

Owners Signature

From: Chetan Patel

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: TID 1%

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:49:47 PM

TID 1%.pdf ATT00001.txt **Attachments:**

March 8, 2021

Dear City Councilmen and Councilwomen,

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I hope that you can understand my position, as this proposed increase in TID will impact different people in different ways. While some argue it will help the City, it is my hope that you understand it will come at the expense of hurting an entire class of people and small motel segment.

Address of Facility

Name of Facility

States

Owners Signature

2620 NE 82 nd AUE Portland, MR 97220

From: rpatel1086

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: I am sharing "TID 1% draft letter - clean version.pdf" with you

Date:Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:57:36 PMAttachments:TID 1% draft letter - clean version.pdf

Shared from Word for Android https://office.com/getword

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

March 8, 2021

Dear City Councilmen and Councilwomen,

I am an owner and operator of an economy-tier motel in the City of Portland.

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	1
Madison suites motel	
	3620NE 82 Ave Portland or 97220
Name of Facility	Address of Facility
Oners Signature	

From: <u>anu patel</u>

To: <u>Council Clerk – Testimony</u>

Subject: Letter of opposition to 1% increase March 10th

Date:Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:58:53 PMAttachments:TID 1% draft letter - clean version.pdf

I have multiple facilities in the Portland area and am opposing any form of increase to transient tax.

Thanks Anu March 8, 2021

Dear City Councilmen and Councilwomen,

I am an owner and operator of an economy-tier motel in the City of Portland.

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Portland inn

405 ne columbia blvd, portland

97211 Address of Facility

Name of Facility

Owners Signature

From: General Manager OR073

To: Council Clerk – Testimony

Subject:Letter of Opposition TID 1% IncreaseDate:Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:59:06 PMAttachments:Letter of Opposition TID 1% Increase.msg

Kay Patel GM, Comfort Suites, Portland, OR March 8, 2021

Dear City Councilmen and Councilwomen,

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Comfort Suites South West

11340 SW 60th Ave, Portland, OR 97219

Name of Facility

Address of Facility

Owners Signature

City Council Meeting - Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:30 a.m.

Agenda No.	First	Last	Zip
120, 121	BUGGSI	PATEL	97220