

**From:** [JAMES BAXTER](#)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Voting No to the 2% TPA tax  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 5:29:52 PM

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I oppose the 2% TPA tax  
Aimee Baxter  
1157 Fabry Rd Se

Thank you!

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**From:** [lemondrop31@icloud.com](mailto:lemondrop31@icloud.com)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Letter regarding transient lodging regarding the MARCH 9th hearing.  
**Date:** Saturday, February 28, 2026 4:39:08 PM

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Hello this is Brittany Finley,

I own the property at 925 Terrace Dr. NW Salem, OR. 97304, and use it to provide short term rental for those passing

through Salem, or those who need a place to stay due to being in between Selling and purchasing a home, or a remodel/ leak in their home etc.

That gives a place for them to stay during that stressful time, etc.. My Husband and I just went through the entire process of getting a land permit to

abide by the rules and jumped hoops needed to legally do so. To now get a letter in the mail about trying to continue the Salem Tourism

Promotion Area per Salem Revised Code Chapter 38, I want to address my absolute OBJECTION to being taxed right along side as the hotels. I

am a HOME OWNER, that SHOULD be able to do what I want with my property, I have already jumped through the hoops and paid \$7,000 just to

get my land permit not including the permit I have to do annually which I already think is thievery. To be informed that more tax and payment is

being talked about possibly being collected to take more of my hard earned money from an Investment that I have worked hard for, is very

Upsetting, and totally Unfair. If you have any questions feel free to reach me at this email, or by Phone: 503-851-9559

Thank you,

Brittany Finley

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**From:** [Carly Ralston](#)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Short Term Rental  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2026 2:18:59 PM

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Hello, i am writing concerning the 2% tax hike you want to impose on " Short Term Rentals". Unfortunately I no longer have a short term rental because of the increase of taxes and fees and regulations concerning short term rentals. Why do you want to tax people to death who just want to do a good thing for oregon? It is not nessasary according to your supposedly shortfall of funds. You have decieved the good people of Oregon and we are so tired and frustrated at your constant increasing taxes on everything! You allow harmful Drugs, but tax someone a floating raft to go down the many rivers we have?!.. this tax is insane and unnecessary..I will make my concerns at the ballot box.  
STOP INSABE AND UNNECESSARY TAX!

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**From:** [Carole Smith](#)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Remonstrance  
**Date:** Sunday, March 1, 2026 6:58:36 PM

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I vote no on the TPA.

Carole Smith  
363 Court Street NE  
salem, Or 97301

We have the following SRTs  
1415 Jefferson Street NE  
1123 17th street se  
1133 17th street se  
369 court street ne

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**From:** [noreply@cityofsalem.net](mailto:noreply@cityofsalem.net) on behalf of [yakedo3@aol.com](mailto:yakedo3@aol.com)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Contact Finance  
**Date:** Saturday, February 28, 2026 7:55:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [ATT00001.bin](#)

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Your Name	Cindy Burns
Your Email	yakedo3@aol.com
Your Phone	5035805546
Street	2655 E Nob Hill Street SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	I oppose the 2% TPA tax. My short term rental license number is 26-1011390-000-MF and the address for the rental is 2655 E Nob Hill Street Se, Salem, OR 97302. I have one unit (an entire dwelling).

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 2/28/2026.

**From:** [Doug Vogel](#)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]STR TPA  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026 2:29:40 PM

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Dear Salem Council,

My name is Doug Vogel and I own one licensed STR property located at 310 23rd Street SE Salem.

I am grateful to have this opportunity to own a home in Salem where I hope to live full-time on day. Having an STR has provided me the ability to buy and own a home now and help afford the cost. We have had great guests and offer a comfortable home for those visiting for work, to visit their kids at universities or family, and for local families displaced because of damage to their homes. In doing so, I am glad to be able to provide some tax revenue to the City of Salem. That being said, I object to an additional 2% tax on short term rental operators. Not purely because of the economic cost to us, but because of the lack of enforcement in short term rentals by the City of Salem.

Out of the hundreds of Short Term Rentals that are operating in the City of Salem, I find only 11 currently that are shown as having valid licenses. 11 out of hundreds that are in operation. Why, lack of enforcement. I paid to renew my license over a month ago and it still says pending.

My concern is that a small amount of us went through the process of getting a conditional use permit that we paid more than \$6,000 for, retained property managers, followed compliance guidelines including installing a bike rack on the property, and have been burdened with filling out monthly reports that the hundreds of other STR owners do not.

If this additional 2% tax is approved, we will be the only ones paying it. There will not be enforcement to collect from the hundreds of other STRs. Not only is it a burden and additional cost to us, but it makes us less competitive on STR platforms. I have no proof that Airbnb automatically takes out taxes from all properties in Salem. I don't think it is fair that these few STRs should be punished when we took it upon ourselves to be compliant with the City of Salem.

I am therefore, adamantly against an additional 2% fee on STRs by way of the TPA. It is my thought that if City Staff were to bring all the hundreds of other STR properties into compliance, they would have more than enough funds in conditional use permit costs. Furthermore, if they applied a business permit to all rental properties including Long Time Rentals, they would have another \$5 million.

Until the City is able to bring all the operational STRs into compliance and have them licensed, I do not think they should be trying to add an additional tax to the few that are in compliance!

With gratitude,

Doug Vogel

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**From:** [Emily Drew](#)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Objection to the continuation of the TPA and ASTR inclusion  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 25, 2026 8:16:14 PM

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Dear City of Salem,

I am writing to express my objection to the continuation of TPA in Salem, as an operator of a ASTR (Salem Revised Code Chapter 38).

The TPA and making ASTR's subject to the TPA presents a hardship on my very small business of renting out a room in my home through short term stays. 95% of the guests who stay in my home are not here for Salem ... they are not interested in partaking in ANY type of tourism. They are here for an overnight sleepover while driving from home to their destination city, or with a focused purpose such as sparing themselves a commute for work. My ASTR is a practical place to sleep overnight, not a space for people coming to Salem to enjoy what the city has to offer. (If using my bedroom rental as an indicator, Salem is a sleepover--not destination--city.)

I object to ASTR's being included in this ordinance.

Emily Drew

property at 4752 Century Ct S, Salem OR  
one ASTR unit offered for transient lodging

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**From:** [Jackie Patel](#)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]TPA Tax  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2026 4:54:06 PM

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I oppose the TPA tax.

Jackie Patel

Motel 6 - Salem

1401 Hawthorne Ave., NE

Salem, OR 97301

114 rooms

503-381-5197

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**From:** [jacqueline Zimmer](#)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Yes to a 2% tax on Airbnb  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2026 12:54:20 PM

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Hello,

I think a 2% tax on Airbnb is a great idea as long as that 2% covers the cost of the software and staff that you purchase to monitor Airbnb transactions. Are there enough Airbnb's in Salem to make this effort worthwhile?

I have a home in West Salem, (it is not an Airbnb property) but I reside in Marin County, California most of the year and they assess a 10% tax on Airbnb. They also make people register, and I believe get a business license. No matter what, the software will sort all that out.

I would also suggest you include VRBO because those are often long-term, and generate revenue, unless there's an actual swap between VRBO owners directly.

I'm also aware that renters who put their residences on Airbnb often do so without the consent of their landlord. This is a good way to make that known, and gives the landlord, the right to be fully aware, since they are, in the end, liable for accidents and such on their property.

I know that some people do Airbnb to help them make ends meet, but a 2% fee is quite reasonable. I suggest you exclude people who are receiving Medicaid, or whose income falls below a certain percentage of the FPL so that they are not profoundly impacted.

I suggest creating an exemption process so that people can appeal (if the home is owner occupied during a guest stay).

Good luck,  
Jacqueline Zimmer Jones

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**From:** [Mary O'Connell](#)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Tourism and the Filth in Salem  
**Date:** Saturday, February 28, 2026 5:15:48 PM

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*I feel that before we worry about more taxes to be charged on hotels, motels, B&B's we should worry about what tourist see when they drive through Salem or on I-5 going through Salem. The trash is horrible that all of the homeless leave. Our State used to be beautiful, and now it has gone to crap. I am tired of driving through our state capitol where I live and looking at all of the filth. This is one of the reasons that I am thinking about leaving Oregon. I have even asked relatives that want to visit us from out of state to wait until we move. I am very embarrassed by what Salem has become.*

*I do not understand why we do not have the inmates from the prison pick up trash like they did in the years before.*

*Very Unhappy Citizen*

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**From:** [Inspiring Joy](#)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Opposition to Continuation and Expansion of the Salem Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) Fee  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2026 7:38:46 PM

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To the Salem City Council,

As a transient lodging operator I am writing to formally oppose the continuation of the Salem Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) fee and any increase or expansion of taxes on short-term rental operators.

As a short-term rental operator in Salem, I strongly believe that increasing the cost of lodging through additional taxes discourages tourism rather than promotes it. Salem already imposes a 9% Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). Adding a 2% TPA fee — and potentially expanding or modifying its structure — further raises the total cost for visitors choosing Salem as their destination.

Tourism is highly price-sensitive. Travelers compare destinations based on overall affordability, and incremental tax increases directly impact booking decisions. When lodging costs rise, visitors have countless alternative options — neighboring cities, wine country communities, coastal towns, or out-of-state destinations — that may offer a more competitive total price.

Making it more expensive to visit Salem does not encourage tourism; it discourages it.

Short-term rental operators are small business owners. We already invest heavily in our properties, pay property taxes, collect and remit occupancy taxes, maintain compliance with city regulations, and contribute to the local economy through referrals to restaurants, wineries, shops, and local services. Adding additional tax burdens reduces margins for small operators and increases costs passed directly to visitors.

If the goal is to grow tourism, the strategy should focus on:

- Reducing barriers to entry for visitors
- Encouraging private investment
- Supporting small lodging providers
- Improving visitor experience through infrastructure and amenities

Raising lodging taxes moves Salem in the opposite direction.

I strongly oppose the continuation of this tax and any additional or expanded short-term rental taxes. Policies that make travel more expensive ultimately harm the very industry they claim to support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Renaë Tallan

Inspiring Joy LLC

1880 W Nob Hill ST SE

Salem, Oregon

Sent from my iPhone **CAUTION! This email came from outside the City of Salem. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender. For guidance on identifying legitimate senders/emails, please review the IT Intranet Cyber Security Page.**

**From:** [robert.bothwell](#)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Vote on 2% Tourism Promotion Area Tax  
**Date:** Saturday, February 28, 2026 3:46:26 PM

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Dear City of Salem,

I own one Short Term Rental located 1912 Wagtail Ct. NW in Salem, OR 97304.

I respectfully vote NO on the 2% TPA Tax.

Robert Bothwell  
1912 Wagtail Ct. NW  
Salem, OR 97304  
503-688-4616

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S25 Ultra, an AT&T 5G smartphone

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**From:** [shana rogers](#)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL]2% Tourism tax  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2026 7:23:01 AM

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Shana Rogers 1280 Nebraska Ave NE Salem, OR 97301 I vote NO! One unit, short term rental, detached garage. Airbnb. Shana Rogers 503-314-1697

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Monday, March 2, 2026, 7:10 AM, Finance <[Finance@cityofsalem.net](mailto:Finance@cityofsalem.net)> wrote:

Hello,

Thank you for your testimony. In order to include your objection, we will need to know the address you are representing and the number of rentable units for you to confirm that you had your STR listed for rent through a booking agent of other publication in the last 60 days.

Could you please provide that information?

Thank you!

**Kelli Blechschmidt**  
*Management Analyst II*  
Finance Department – Budget Office  
[kblechschmidt@cityofsalem.net](mailto:kblechschmidt@cityofsalem.net)  
503-588-6049

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**From:** shana rogers <[shanarogers1@yahoo.com](mailto:shanarogers1@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 27, 2026 9:07 PM  
**To:** Finance <[Finance@cityofsalem.net](mailto:Finance@cityofsalem.net)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]2% Tourism tax

My vote is NO.

Shana Rogers

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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**From:** [Vince Sliter](#)  
**To:** [Finance](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]2% Tourism Promotion Area Tax  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2026 10:32:05 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I oppose the 2% TPA tax.

My name is Vincent Sliter.

My short term rental address is: 4753 Century Ct. S Salem OR 97302

I have 1 unit.

Best Regards,

Vincent Sliter

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