

Submitter:

Cindy Kerby

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4148

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed measure that would change how lodging tax funds are allocated.

As a long-time volunteer for community events and as a small business owner who works closely with our local chamber of commerce, I see firsthand how critical lodging tax funding is to the success of tourism, arts, and culture in our cities. These programs are not abstract concepts—they directly support small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and local events that rely on tourism to survive and thrive.

The chamber of commerce and tourism partners play an active role in supporting small businesses, especially those that depend on visitor traffic. Lodging tax dollars help fund marketing, events, and programs that drive visitor demand throughout the year—not just during the busy summer months. This year-round support is essential for sustaining local jobs, maintaining vibrant downtowns, and keeping small businesses viable during slower seasons.

Redirecting these funds away from tourism, arts, and culture and toward general government organizations would drastically reduce the ability of these programs to support our local economy. It would take dollars generated by visitors in our community and remove them from the very system that brings those visitors here in the first place.

Leaving the lodging tax structured as it is ensures that tourism dollars stay in our community, are reinvested locally, and continue to support the small businesses and organizations that depend on them. Continued investment in driving visitor demand year-round is not just good for tourism—it is vital for the overall health and sustainability of our local economy.

I strongly urge you to oppose this measure and preserve the current allocation of lodging tax funds so our communities, small businesses, and local events can continue to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy

