



## Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association

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## Support for HB 4148

### *Chair Meek and members of the committee:*

The Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA) is the coastal voice for Oregon's local governments, including counties, cities, soil and water conservation districts, ports and some other organizations. I am writing this letter to you today, as the Chair of OCZMA to support HB 4148.

Lodging taxes are taxes paid by visitors of hotels, motels, short term rentals and campgrounds. For all short-term lodging taxes levied locally since 2003, 70 percent goes to tourism marketing and the other 30 goes to fund public services. Promotion has worked so well that tourism season is extending on the coast to include the "shoulder season" fall and spring, but also the holidays and mid-winter months.

We are getting more and more visitors year-round. And during highest tourism seasons, the TLT does not support local governments' responsibilities to provide public safety, law enforcement, emergency services (fire protection, medical treatment and emergency transport services) to our visitors in many coastal communities.

HB 4148 provides more local lodging tax flexibility by allowing cities, counties and Port districts to have additional discretionary general fund dollars to provide services that tourism relies on including public safety, parks and community infrastructure, for example. Right now, communities bear the burden of maintaining and operating things that directly benefit tourists that are primarily funded by community members.

OCZMA operates with a vision to achieve healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient communities for our residents and visitors on the Oregon Coast. It does that by uniting local government and elected or appointed officials on the Oregon coast to advocate with a collective voice on issues and policies that impact our coast, also to share solutions and ensure viable communities. HB 4148 further builds our partnership in a sustained and positive tourism experience for all. In short, HB 4148:

- Does not raise taxes but allows jurisdictions to reconfigure current taxes.
- Restores more local control.
- Continues to dedicate a portion of the local TLT to tourism. HB 4148 is a compromise because it does not completely abolish the preemption placed on cities in 2003 and will provide the tourism industry and local governments certainty.
- Does not prohibit communities from spending more on tourism if that addresses their vision and strategic goals.

We urge your support of HB 4148!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Beaudreau".

Jo Beaudreau, Chair  
Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association