

February 9, 2026

To: House Committee on Revenue
From: Sarah Chaney
Re: Support for HB 4148

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters and members of the committee.

I strongly support HB 4148 in order to change the allocation from the transient lodging tax so that 60% would fund city or county services.

Last year I sat through hours of testimony from people around the state hoping to have projects in their community funded. (I don't remember if it was for the lottery fund or another part of the budget.) I was hoping to testify for a project in Corvallis. What struck me most was the number of city officials around the state who were asking for money to add capacity to, or upgrade wastewater and water treatment plants and other necessary infrastructure like new roofs for community centers or schools. Many officials were from smaller cities and towns. A recurring reason for their plea for funds was the impact that increasing numbers of visitors were having on their infrastructure. They desperately needed funding because current sources of funding weren't enough to meet the immense cost facing their community. In addition to a one-time grant from the state, many specifically asked to be able to use more money from the transient lodging tax.

I noticed today that officials or members of the communities from Manzanita, Tillamook, Jefferson County, Albany, City of The Dalles, City of Rogue River, North Bend, Curry County, Bend, Astoria, and Clatsop County support this bill. They all addressed the fact that their city or county was negatively impacted by the increasing strain visitors are putting on their community's ability to provide a healthy, safe place for everyone.

Without the ability to use more of the transient lodging tax, local governments who have relied on state forest timber harvests for funding will face renewed pressure to overcut timber. It's a catch-22 situation: more timber harvesting directly impacts the value of an area for tourists coming to experience the great outdoors and wildlife in Oregon. With less visitors, the funds from the transient lodge decrease.

Please vote YES on HB 4148.

Thank you

Sarah Chaney

