

Submitter: PRITI Patel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148
Written Testimony in Strong Opposition to HB 4148
Submitted by: Priti Patel
Owner & General Manager, Rodeway Inn Medford
Medford, Oregon

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Priti Patel, and I am the owner and general manager of Rodeway Inn Medford, a locally owned and operated lodging business serving Southern Oregon. I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 4148.

HB 4148 would redirect local lodging tax revenues away from tourism promotion and destination management organizations and into city and county general funds. While I understand the fiscal pressures faced by local governments, this proposal would create long-term harm to Oregon's visitor economy—particularly in regions like Southern Oregon that already struggle with declining visitor demand.

Local lodging taxes exist for a clear and specific purpose: to reinvest in tourism promotion that generates overnight stays, supports local jobs, and drives economic activity. These funds are not surplus dollars. They are an investment that directly benefits lodging operators, restaurants, retailers, attractions, and the many workers who depend on visitor spending.

In Medford and the surrounding Southern Oregon region, we are not a high-traffic destination year-round. Tourism promotion is essential during shoulder and off-peak seasons to bring visitors here for medical travel, work assignments, outdoor recreation, events, and extended stays. Reducing or weakening this promotion will not create savings—it will reduce demand, occupancy, and revenue for local businesses, ultimately shrinking the tax base HB 4148 claims to support.

As a small business owner, I have already faced significant challenges over the last several years, including economic downturns, rising operational costs, and increased competition. We rely on consistent and strategic tourism marketing to keep our doors open and our employees working. Shifting lodging tax dollars to general funds breaks the trust of those paying the tax and undermines the very engine that generates it.

Tourism dollars multiply across our local economy. When visitors stay in our hotels, they spend money at local restaurants, shops, gas stations, and attractions.

Weakening tourism promotion will result in fewer visitors, fewer jobs, and less revenue—not more.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 4148 and preserve the dedicated use of lodging tax revenues for tourism promotion and destination management. Protecting these funds is critical to the economic health of Southern Oregon and communities across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for considering the real-world impact this bill would have on local businesses and workers.

Sincerely,
Priti Patel
Owner & General Manager
Rodeway Inn Medford