

Submitter: Heather Perkins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 4148
Submitted by: Heather Perkins
Employee, Rodeway Inn Medford
Medford, Oregon

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Heather Perkins, and I work at Rodeway Inn Medford, a locally owned lodging business serving the Medford community and Southern Oregon. I am submitting this testimony to express my strong opposition to House Bill 4148.

This bill proposes to shift local lodging tax funds away from tourism promotion and destination marketing organizations into general city and county funds. While I understand that cities and counties face budget pressures, this change would have serious negative consequences for local businesses and the employees who rely on them.

Tourism promotion funded by these taxes directly brings visitors to our region. Visitors staying at our hotel also support local restaurants, shops, and attractions. Reducing these funds would decrease visitor numbers, which would directly affect our jobs, the stability of our business, and the overall local economy. Southern Oregon already faces challenges attracting visitors outside of peak seasons, and HB 4148 would make those challenges worse.

As an employee who interacts with guests every day, I see firsthand how tourism drives meaningful economic activity in our community. Redirecting lodging tax dollars away from their intended purpose puts jobs and livelihoods at risk.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose HB 4148 and preserve the dedicated use of lodging taxes for tourism promotion and destination marketing. Keeping these funds focused on attracting visitors is vital to sustaining businesses and supporting employees in Medford and across Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Heather Perkins
Employee, Rodeway Inn Medford