

Public Testimony Opposing House Bill 4148

To: Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the House Committee on Revenue

From: Pranav Patel

Date: February 9, 2026

Subject: Opposition to House Bill 4148 – Protecting Oregon's Tourism and Hospitality Jobs

Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Pranav Patel, and I am writing to you today to express my opposition to House Bill 4148. I have spent my entire life working within the hospitality industry. For me, and for thousands of my colleagues across Oregon, this is not just an industry; it is our livelihood.

I am deeply concerned by the proposal to shift the current Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) distribution from its 70/30 split to a 40/60 split. Diverting these funds away from tourism promotion is a direct threat to the stability of our jobs and the health of our local economies.

The fundamental nature of the TLT is to serve as a reinvestment tool. It was designed to ensure that the very industry generating this revenue, tourism, is sustained through strategic marketing and promotion. By lowering the required reinvestment from 70% down to 40%, the state is choosing to stop fueling the engine that drives our local economy.

I live and work in the Portland and Beaverton areas, and I am seeing the consequences of declining tourism firsthand. We are currently facing economic stagnation, with visitor numbers already dropping. Because of this decrease:

- We have been forced to cut hospitality jobs across the board.
- Local businesses that rely on the foot traffic from visitors are struggling to keep their doors open.
- Hard-working employees are seeing their hours slashed or their positions eliminated entirely.

Now is the exact moment we should be increasing our marketing efforts to bring people back to Oregon, not draining the resources that make those efforts possible. While I understand that local governments face funding challenges for other services, those funds should not be siphoned from a tax meant to protect the hospitality sector. Using tourism dollars to fix general budgetary gaps elsewhere is a short-sighted move that will lead to more layoffs and a weaker Oregon brand.

If HB 4148 passes, it will signal that Oregon is no longer committed to being a top-tier destination. For someone like me who has dedicated their life to hospitality, it feels like the state is turning its back on the workers who welcome the world to our doorstep.

I urge you to oppose HB 4148 and maintain the integrity of the 70/30 funding split to ensure we can continue to employ the thousands of Oregonians who depend on a thriving tourism industry.

Thank you for your time and for considering the perspective of Oregon's hospitality workforce.

Sincerely,

Pranav Patel Hospitality Professional