

February 9, 2026

To:

House Committee on Revenue  
Oregon State Legislature

Re: Opposition to HB 4148

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 4148. As the owner of a small, independent hotel in Southern Oregon, I rely on transient lodging tax (TLT) revenue to promote tourism and attract visitors — a vital part of keeping my business and our local economy alive.

Historically, hoteliers have worked with local governments to self-tax through TLT with the understanding that **at least 70% of funds would support tourism promotion** and no more than 30% would go to other services. HB 4148 would allow **up to 60% of these funds to be redirected**, a significant shift from that agreement, which could reduce the resources small hotels rely on to bring guests to our communities.

My own business has faced one of its hardest years in a decade — **January 2026 revenue was down 40%+ year-over-year**, and rising labor and insurance costs continue to put pressure on operations. Unlike large chains, small properties do not have big marketing budgets, and TLT-funded tourism promotion is often the only way to attract guests, especially during the off-season.

TLT funds also support the broader local economy. Restaurants, shops, attractions, and service providers all depend on visitor traffic. Redirecting more of these funds to discretionary local services could reduce tourism marketing and ultimately harm small lodging operators and the communities that rely on visitor dollars. For context, in 2024, Klamath County distributed over **\$1.4 million in transient lodging tax revenue** in just the third quarter alone, highlighting the significance of these funds for sustaining tourism and local businesses.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to **maintain the historic TLT allocation**, ensuring that the

majority of funds continue to support tourism promotion and the small hotels and communities that depend on it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dhrushil Patel

Klamath Falls, Oregon