

Submitter: Taran Patel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148
Written Testimony – HB 4148

Position: OPPOSE

Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Taran and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of A1 hospitality company operating in Oregon.

We respectfully oppose HB 4148.

Transient Lodging Taxes (TLT) are generated almost entirely by hotel guests and were established with the understanding that these funds would support tourism, destination promotion, and services directly tied to visitor-driven economic activity. HB 4148 weakens that principle by allowing these funds to be redirected toward general city or county services, either directly or through special districts.

For lodging operators, this represents a direct financial impact. Hotels collect these taxes on behalf of local governments, yet HB 4148 allows the revenue to be used for purposes unrelated to the industry that generates it. This reduces accountability and undermines the return on investment that tourism-related spending provides to local economies.

The hospitality industry is already facing rising costs related to labor, insurance, utilities, and regulatory compliance. Diverting lodging tax revenue away from tourism promotion will ultimately reduce demand, occupancy, and local economic activity—while leaving hotels with the same or increased tax burden and no corresponding benefit.

Most concerning, HB 4148 sets a precedent that lodging taxes are no longer protected for their intended purpose. Once these funds are opened to broader use, the hospitality industry becomes an easy and recurring source of revenue for non-tourism government services.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to oppose HB 4148 and preserve the integrity and original intent of Transient Lodging Taxes.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your consideration.