

Submitter: Rachel I Pearson
On Behalf Of: Florence Arts Culture Entertainment 501c3
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148

As a resident of Lane County and the President of the independent nonprofit Florence Arts Culture and Entertainment, I urge you IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS to oppose HB 4148.

FACE's very popular THREE-DAY FLORENCE WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL, now going into its 24th year, brings many overnight guests to Florence at a time of year when the tourist population is the lowest. We also produce the September FESTIVAL OF BOOKS and the INDOOR YARD SALE in March. These two events also attract overnight visitors to our tourist-based town. Monies from the Transient Lodging Tax are rightly poured back into Florence's tourist industry to keep the businesses and the city strong, vital, and attractive -- especially in midwinter.

Cities and the county have many other methods of raising funds. The Florence tourism industry has -- essentially -- ONE.

DO NOT DIVERT THESE FUNDS TO OTHER USES! Our tourism industry in Florence depends on them!