

Submitter: Janel Bennett
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Measure, Appointment or SB1585
Topic:

Dear Committee Members,

As a restaurant owner in Albany, I am deeply concerned by HB 4148. This bill weakens the "reinvestment cycle" that allows the transient lodging tax to work for small businesses like mine.

The logic of the lodging tax is simple: it is an investment, not just a fee. When we redirect these funds away from tourism promotion, we compromise our ability to attract visitors. Over time, this leads to:

- Reduced competitiveness against neighboring states.
- Lower revenue for local businesses and public resources.
- A diminishing return on a tax that was meant to be an economic driver.

We should fund statewide priorities through transparent budget processes, not by repurposing a specialized tool designed for economic growth. Please vote "No" on HB 4148 to keep Oregon's visitor economy strong.

Sincerely,

Janel Bennett
Sybaris Bistro