



COMMISSIONER LAURIE TRIEGER, District 3, South Eugene

February 10, 2026
House Committee on Revenue
Re HB 4148, Relating to Local Taxation

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee:

I offer this written response to Rep. Marsh's question during the Revenue Committee Hearing on HB4148 held on February 9, 2026. She asked how our Board might manage decision making if we had greater TLT fund flexibility and discretion.

As local elected officials we face the same challenges as our state colleagues in the legislature do; how best to meet needs that outstrip available resources. The challenge presented by insufficient dollars is compounded when the dollars we do have are unrealistically and overly restricted.

We would request proposals from DMOs like any other funding type request. We would hold a work session, identify the need, discuss and go from there. These requests and deliberations would be made in public session with ample, required public notice and with all materials being available in advance. This is how the county conducts all its business in service to our community. Integrity in our role as stewards of public dollars and resources always comes first.

Local governments take these actions seriously. Speaking for Lane County, our decisions are not made in a vacuum. When considering any change to the allocation or use of TLT funds, we would engage directly with destination marketing organizations, our tourism partners, and other stakeholders to understand their priorities, concerns.

Tourism promotion remains a core purpose of the lodging tax, and strong marketing is in the county's interest. Our goal would not be to diminish that work, but make sure it's surrounded by the public safety, infrastructure, and amenities that allow tourism to succeed. Marketing works best when visitors have a safe and positive experience, and that requires functioning emergency services and roads.

This bill is not a mandate—it simply provides much needed increased flexibility. As Local elected officials we remain accountable to our communities, and decisions about allocation would be made through public processes, with transparency and opportunity for input. Just as they do now.

Counties have a strong incentive to ensure tourism partners continue to see value in how these funds are used.

Ultimately, this bill allows counties like Lane to balance tourism promotion with the real, measurable impacts and costs tourism creates. It's about partnership and shared responsibility, not sidelining tourism voices.

Sincerely,

Laurie Trieger
Lane County Board of Commissioners, District 3