

Good afternoon Chair, Vice Chairs, and other members of the committee.

My name is Paul Fournier and I am the Chair of the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners.

I am here today to speak in support of HB 4148 on behalf of one of my county's largest tourism providers. This entity owns and operates 6 campgrounds, 21 boat launches and 10 day use areas. This entity is the largest single owner of transient lodging rentals with more than 560 individual places to stay.

Those boat launches and day use areas average more than 1,000,000 visitors annually, while those transient lodging rentals average about 45,000 night-stays per year.

It's easy to see that the visitor economy is vitally important to that entity.

And that entity is Tillamook County, which currently allocates the full 30% of unrestricted TLT revenue to our road department, helping to keep 368 miles of roads, 118 bridges, and 4000 culverts open and operating for our millions of visitors each year, as well as our 27,000 residents. Our Sheriff's office responds to an average of 20,000 calls for service each year, the majority being visitor related.

Tillamook County spends over \$2 million dollars annually for our contracted Destination Management Organization, and over time, has awarded \$7 million dollars in grants to tourism-related businesses and non-profits.

Additionally, each year at the board of commissioners discretion, several larger grants - often in the millions of dollars - is awarded each year for Tourism related projects - such as public swimming pools, ADA accessibility, recreational facilities, way-finding, habitat restoration and blue economy investments - to name a few.

Counties that need HB 4148 to pass understand the value of investing in their visitor economy and that an evolution of the revenue split to 60/40 is needed for them to have the flexibility to achieve that goal. Those counties and cities that don't want to change, won't have to under this bill.

Thank you for your time.