

Submitter: Matthew Buschert
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148

HB4148 is a spectacularly short sided idea. Allowing taxing entities, a larger unfettered piece of the TLT pie hands them a blank check to spend without control of the voters and to the detriment of lodging.

This has already happened in the City of Cannon Beach and Clatsop County.

Cannon Beach increased TLT to chase the unfettered TLT to fund 35 million dollars for a new city hall, new police station and renovate a vacant school into an event center. This all without a vote of the 1400 residents. The city was sued and settled to put the school renovation to a vote. The city council's plan was resoundingly rejected by the voters. This demonstrated that the city intends to use TLT increases to fund whatever it wants without citizen involvement. Increased TLT impacts the ability of Cannon Beach lodging to compete by upping room rates.

Clatsop County has done the same thing, upping TLT to fund a jail.

If the legislature wants to really update the use of TLT dollars, do not change the split, expand what tourist uses are allowed. If communities can demonstrate tourist impact on infrastructure, public safety and fire protection, make these acceptable uses for TLT funds.