

Submitter: Kennedy Morgan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148

I am writing in opposition of HB4148. I work for Frank Hotels, LLC, a company with 5 hotel properties in tourist locations in Oregon. Our company is reliant on the tourism industry to provide jobs and to continue operating our hotels. This is an industry that managed to thrive during challenging times such as COVID, but is already struggling due to the economical impacts on society. In addition, tourism dollars are way down when it comes to international travelers. All of these have a grave impact on an industry that rises and falls with the seasons.

Many of the communities where we operate are extremely seasonal based. The weather creates a feast or famine business model. Many employees are underemployed at times of the year, and during the feast periods of high tourism, businesses are fighting for good workers. Any impact on our already often meager profits affects what we are able to do to drive business on our own and to better provide for the workers we employ. In addition, our company often supports local events and community functions. We cannot continue to do those things when our hands become more tied with tax dollars derailed from our industry. The state and community support of tax dollars promoting tourism have a direct affect on our future.

Please do not forget that businesses like ours pay directly into the tax coffers that allow you to operate. There are far fewer large businesses and employers in the state, particularly in smaller communities such as the coast. Putting pressure on the small businesses who already struggle will put some - if not many - out of business. That, in turn, will impact the state, city, and community tax dollars. This HB has a negative impact on this industry and this industry has a very positive impact on the state's attraction to visitors and dollars spent. This is a tangled web, but make no mistake - HB4148 will further reduce tourism dollars, put tourism industry at risk, and cost the loss of businesses.

Vote no on HB 4148. There is nothing good to come of this for Oregon's tourism industry.