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## WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

February 11, 2026

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

For the record, my name is Pablo Nieves-Valenzuela, and I serve as a government relations manager for Washington County. I am writing to testify in support of HB 4148, which would increase by 10% the amount of Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenue that local governments can use for critical community needs like law enforcement.

Washington County is a major economic driver for Oregon, home to a diverse range of businesses from large corporations to small enterprises. Our strong economic activity fuels statewide growth, helps stabilize Oregon's broader fiscal landscape, and supports an expanding and increasingly diverse population. However, Washington County must meet these growing demands while being hampered by the restricted local property tax system set in place decades ago in addition to restrictions on how TLT revenue can be used. While we understand the need to invest in promoting tourism, we believe that the existing limitations need to be updated. Ensuring that local governments have greater freedom to utilize TLT revenue for local priorities is one way the state can help us manage our growth responsibly.

This fiscal year, our County had to make incredibly difficult decisions to balance our budget. We cut twenty-six positions from our Sheriff's Office, including ten patrol deputies and ten jail deputies. Our Community Corrections Department also lost eighteen positions, including our entire Victims Services Division. As the state grapples with similar budgetary challenges and has less resources to support local governments, allowing greater flexibility for TLT revenue will provide relief to local governments like Washington County.

We respectfully request your support for HB 4148 to help local governments prevent devastating cuts to public safety and other core services as we work to meet the demands of our communities.

Thank you,

Pablo Nieves-Valenzuela  
Government Relations Manager  
Washington County  
(971)-917-6953  
[Pablo\\_Nieves-Valenzuela@washingtoncountyor.gov](mailto:Pablo_Nieves-Valenzuela@washingtoncountyor.gov)