

February 10, 2016

Governor Kate Brown
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street, Room 254
Salem, OR 97301

Senate President Peter
Courtney
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street, S-201
Salem, OR 97301

House Speaker Tina Kotek
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street, Room 269
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 4146

Governor Brown, President Courtney, Speaker Kotek, and Members of the Legislature:

As the Mayors of Eugene, Albany, and Corvallis, we are pleased to support HB 4146, which will increase the current statewide Transient Lodging Tax (TLT). As many know, Oregon will be home to a worldwide audience as we host the 2021 IAAF World Championships, the third largest sporting event globally. This is an exciting moment for all of Oregon, as it will be the first time this event is held on US soil. We believe the 2021 Championships presents the opportunity to transform our region to be more prosperous, livable, and equitable. To that end, Eugene and our regional partners have made the 2021 Championships a focal point for community investments, policy initiatives, and federal engagement.

We support Representative Nathanson's efforts to balance advancing the state's tourism marketing interests while increasing funding support to the local communities which play host to the visitors and events encompassed by this legislation. We have heard that over 100 country teams will be in Oregon for up to a month prior to the Championship event. Naturally, these teams will be looking for quality lodging, athletic training facilities, and cultural experiences as they prepare for the greatest competition in the world.

Our cities and those across the great state of Oregon are poised to capture the economic benefits of this special moment in time. We see this as the proverbial 'tip of the iceberg'. HB 4146 creates a legacy that benefits all Oregon communities by ensuring a dedicated fund within Travel Oregon that provides funds for local tourism investments in facilities, events, and programming.

To accomplish this vision, we need collaboration at all levels including local, state, and federal government support, as well as that of the private and non-profit sectors. Many have mentioned the transformation of Seattle through its hosting of the 1962 World's Fair as an example of 'what could be'. We too share this vision for Oregon. We truly believe it is Oregon's time to #InspiretheWorld.

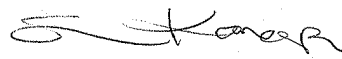
Sincerely,



Kitty Piercy
Mayor of Eugene



Biff Traber
Mayor of Corvallis



Sharon Konopa
Mayor of Albany