

# VOTE “NO” ON HOUSE BILL 4146A SUPPORT A COMPROMISE APPROACH



From the desk of Rep. Vega Pederson

## REDUCED LOCAL OPTIONS

HB 4146A increases the statewide transient lodging tax (TLT) by 100% – from 1% to 2%. This doubling of the statewide tax will eliminate options for local communities to address their own tourism needs due to limited capacity for local TLTs on top of this significant state increase. Locally controlled dollars can be bonded against and used to enhance existing tourism facilities or build new attractions.

## DIMINISHED COMPETITIVENESS IN METRO AREA

HB 4146A will diminish the ability of the Greater Portland Region to compete for meetings and convention business among comparable cities. With this increase, the Portland area would have higher lodging taxes than most of its closest competitors, including Austin, Denver, Minneapolis, and Sacramento. Conventions bring visitors that stay and explore Oregon, contributing economic benefit and tax revenues to the state.

## A COMPROMISE APPROACH

Understanding these impacts, a coalition of tourism partners developed a compromise approach of a 0.5% increase, along with a competitive grant program for sporting and other tourism related events, which still allows Travel Oregon sufficient revenues to accomplish their goals without sacrificing the ability of local jurisdictions to meet their own needs.

Please support a reasonable middle ground compromise of a 0.5% increase to the statewide TLT. Vote “no” on HB 4146A in its current form.