

Submitter: BRANDON KRAFT
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 4148, which proposes a 1.25% increase to Oregon's statewide lodging tax. This proposal places an undue and disproportionate burden on the lodging industry—particularly in coastal markets such as Clatsop County.

Clatsop County lodging providers experienced a 2% increase from the County as of 1/1/2026. This bill would be an additional increase totaling 3.25% in lodging taxes in less than a year. When combined with existing state lodging taxes, these increases will raise the TLT paid by primarily Oregonians from 13.5% in Astoria as of 12/31/2025, to 16.75% just in Astoria.

Coastal destinations such as those in Clatsop County are highly seasonal and price-sensitive. Layering an additional statewide increase on top of recent local hikes compounds rate resistance, particularly during shoulder and off-peak periods when operators rely on value positioning to maintain occupancy. From the 2% count increase in January, I have personally received calls from groups and organizations that are already discussing moving their business elsewhere. Now we are discussing ANOTHER increase?

Before adding another statewide tax on top of that, it makes sense to first look at how the current dollars are being spent and whether they're delivering the results that were promised. Piling on new taxes without reviewing how existing revenue is performing makes it difficult for hoteliers to stay confident in the process or plan for the future.

I ask legislators to take into account the total tax load that lodging operators in places like Clatsop County are already carrying. A 1.25% increase may not seem like much on its own, but when you stack it on top of recent local increases, it adds up quickly and creates real financial pressure. That pressure impacts our ability to stay competitive, reinvest in our properties, and continue supporting the long-term health of our coastal tourism economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to oppose House Bill 4148, or at the very least postpone action on it until a thorough review of recent lodging tax increases and their impacts has been completed