

Submitter: Chelsie Fisher
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chelsie Fisher, and I am the General Manager of a locally owned lodge and hospitality business in rural Oregon. I am writing to oppose HB 4148.

In small tourism-dependent communities like ours, lodging taxes are not abstract line items. They directly affect whether guests choose to stay, how long they stay, and whether a trip feels affordable at all. I regularly speak with guests who are working within fixed budgets, traveling for work, visiting family, or planning short getaways, and lodging taxes are increasingly part of those conversations.

Even when a bill does not technically raise tax rates, how those dollars are used matters. When local lodging tax revenue is invested back into tourism promotion and destination marketing, it supports the demand that keeps our rooms filled beyond peak season. That demand is what allows us to offer steadier hours, retain experienced staff, and operate responsibly year-round rather than relying entirely on a short summer window.

HB 4148 would redirect those funds away from the very systems that help small communities generate visitor demand in slower months. In practice, this weakens the economic engine that supports hospitality jobs while offering no guarantee that the lost demand will be replaced in other ways. For rural operators, this creates more volatility, not stability.

Tourism promotion is not a luxury for places like ours. It is an investment that benefits local workers, small businesses, and ultimately local governments themselves. When visitation drops, hours are cut, jobs become seasonal rather than stable, and communities lose more in the long run than they gain through short-term redistribution.

As someone responsible for managing staff schedules, pricing, and long-term viability in a small town, I urge you to consider how HB 4148 would play out on the ground. Shifting lodging tax dollars away from tourism promotion undermines the very activity that generates those funds in the first place.

I respectfully ask that you oppose HB 4148 and protect the tools that allow Oregon's hospitality industry, especially in rural communities, to remain viable, competitive, and sustainable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Chelsie Fisher
General Manager
Imperial River Company