

Submitter: Benjamin Perle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148

I am a small hotel owner in McMinnville Oregon and have been working in the Oregon Hospitality industry for close to 30 years.

I have seen the benefits of TLT dollars in promoting and developing economic impacts on communities like Sunriver, Bend and McMinnville.

Whenever we reduce investment in driving visitor demand, small businesses and local governments become less successful, not more.

I know you are trying to solve a budget issue by making a grab for what you see as "available dollars" but this view is unwise.

Oregon needs more investment in shoulder and off-peak seasons. Those slower times of year are where we have real potential to bring more visitors into our local communities, not just rely on the busy summer months.

When we invest in economic development during those periods, our workers are better off with more consistent hours and more stability. And when we continue to improve visitor demand in those slower seasons, it ultimately generates far more revenue for local governments than a policy like this one, which simply redistributes tax dollars to purposes that don't actually grow visitor demand.

Please, I URGE you to reconsider this train of thought that would truly hurt our industry in such a challenging time when we continue to be third largest employment sector in this state

Thank you,

ben