

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

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brock Fisher, and I am the Operations Manager for Imperial River Company in Maupin, Oregon. I am writing to express my opposition to SB 4148 and to share how this bill would directly harm small, rural communities like ours.

Maupin is a town of just 448 residents. Nearly our entire local economy depends on visitation and tourism. The visitors who come here to raft, fish, recreate, and enjoy our natural resources are not just customers of outdoor businesses; they are the reason our grocery store, fly shop, coffee shop, lodging providers, restaurants, and other locally run businesses are able to stay open.

SB 4148 would shift local lodging tax dollars away from tourism promotion, arts and culture organizations such as museums, and local Chambers of Commerce or Destination Marketing Organizations, and into city and county general funds. For small communities like Maupin, this shift is deeply concerning.

Lodging tax dollars are one of the few tools rural towns have to actively support visitation. These funds are not excess revenue, they are reinvested directly into promoting the very tourism that sustains our local economy. Moving these dollars away from tourism promotion threatens the pipeline of visitors that our businesses and residents rely on.

If visitation declines because tourism promotion is reduced, the impacts will be felt immediately and broadly. Small businesses lose revenue, seasonal workers lose jobs, nonprofit organizations struggle to survive, and communities like Maupin risk losing essential services that depend on a healthy visitor economy. For a town of our size, even a modest drop in visitation can have outsized consequences.

Arts, culture, and destination organizations are not optional extras in rural communities. Museums, visitor centers, and Chambers of Commerce play a critical role in welcoming visitors, extending stays, and encouraging people to explore responsibly. Removing or reducing their funding undermines the very economic activity lodging taxes were designed to support.

SB 4148 may appear flexible at a high level, but for small towns it represents a significant risk. Shifting lodging tax revenue into general funds prioritizes short-term budget relief over long-term economic stability for communities that rely almost

entirely on tourism.

I respectfully urge the committee to oppose SB 4148 and to protect the lodging tax framework that allows rural communities like Maupin to survive and remain economically viable.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Brock Fisher