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February 9, 2026

To the Honorable Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters  
and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce (RACC) on behalf of the businesses, organizations and individuals we represent throughout Douglas County, respectfully, but ardently, opposes HB 4148. RACC's opposition has nothing to do with our chamber operations. We do not receive any transient lodging tax (TLT) dollars. We are not a destination marketing organization (DMO) and, have no desire to be in the future. We do have the utmost respect for the chambers of commerce and other non-profit organizations around our state that serve as DMOs with grace, dedication and professionalism. Our opposition is purely in defense of local business—many of them small businesses.

HB 4148 would fundamentally alter the definitions set forth in the 2003 TLT legislation, which created a 70/30 split with 70% dedicated to tourism promotion, marketing or facilities and 30% unrestricted for the local municipality to use in whatever manner they choose. The RACC and local businesses actively participated in the 2003 legislation. If passed, HB 4148 would essentially “flip” the percentages with 60% of TLT dollars being unrestricted at the local level and 40% being available for tourism promotion, marketing and facilities. Cutting marketing and promotional dollars by nearly half!

The purported facts, used by municipalities to support their need of the lion's share of the TLT funds, just don't translate. Significant TLT funds mandated to tourism promotion should never have been set aside year after year, held “in reserve” under the guise of promotion being unwarranted, when hotel occupancy rates are 30, 40, 50, 60% lower in the shoulder or low tourism months compared to the peak season. Those funds should have been used for the intended purpose. Refusal to spend the TLT dollars as designated under law is not responsible stewardship of TLT funds.

Local governments touting significant increased crime by tourists should come with verifiable proof of out-of-area residency combined with confirmation of a local lodging stay. Attributing visitor counts so large at a local event when barely 15-20% (or less) could actually be staying in a local lodging facility should be disqualified for this discussion. Clearly the majority of these attendees are not, by definition, tourists who are staying in local hotels and paying the TLT tax. Yet, there is an attempt to place the financial burden squarely on a specific industry—the lodging industry.

Most Oregon communities have a shortage of law enforcement officers. Diverting TLT funds isn't going to solve the unfortunate fact that there are simply less law enforcement professionals and fewer individuals interested in pursuing the profession. Local governments desperately want to access these TLT funds to subsidize budget deficits. HB 4148 is not a valid solution. Additionally, there is no justification in permanently diverting almost 50% of current tourism-dedicated funds based on a single “visitor” event or weekend, or even a handful of events.



*To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.*

*To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.*

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We get it. Cities and counties are facing budget shortfalls and looking for revenue sources wherever they can find them. It doesn't change that general tax dollars should pay for community infrastructure and community services. Pilfering the TLT dollars, rather going to citizens in the community to pay for community needs is going down the path of least resistance. And, it's wrong. If HB 4148 passes, we could see cities and counties currently without a TLT attempting to pass a tax purely for additional revenue for city or county services on the back of our local lodging industry and making them less competitive.

Proponents' argument that the world has changed since TLT law was enacted in 2003 is a correct statement. The world has changed. It doesn't, however, make it a valid reason to change existing law. Things haven't just changed for local governments; it has also changed for lodging, hospitality, tourism and related businesses, mostly small businesses. What hasn't changed is the need that those dedicated funds be spent on tourism promotion.

Current TLT law has been a proven success over the past 20 years, bringing visitors to Oregon communities. Due to a global pandemic and other world events, current visitor travel is down and those TLT dollars are even more imperative today to the survival and sustainability of thousands of small businesses across Oregon, particularly in rural Oregon.

It's also a bit disingenuous for supporters of HB 4148 to rely on the argument that things are different today than 20 years ago, considering the repeated assault on Oregon's hospitality and tourism-related industries over the last 20+ years, with constant attempts to divert the TLT away from the intended and best use of funds.

ANY change to current statute related to the TLT percentages, allowed uses, definitions, etc., is a betrayal of an industry that **asked** to be taxed in order for there to be funds dedicated to the growth of numerous industries and the betterment of our communities; an industry that **compromised** on the percentage, giving up 30% to local governments. HB 4148 isn't just adverse to business and economic growth and sustainability; it is anti-business and exhibits a complete lack of care and support, specifically for small local businesses in this industry sector.

Please show you value our local businesses with your "NO" vote on HB 4148!

Respectfully,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
DOUGLAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM  
President & CEO

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