

Submitter: Ryan Nolan
On Behalf Of: City of Rogue River
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148

Oregon's cities, small to large, deserve the ability to make decisions that reflect their own needs. As the City Administrator of the City of Rogue River, I've seen firsthand how outdated state laws governing Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) spending restrict our ability to maintain essential services and prepare for future growth.

With the current state law requiring 70% of lodging revenue to be spent solely on tourism promotion or narrowly defined tourism facilities, leaving only 30% for core community needs, a change is needed.

For small cities with lean budgets, the current spending requirements are simply unworkable.

The reality is that the kinds of investments small communities need like park restrooms, pedestrian safety improvements, street repairs, and police services are necessary to support and encourage tourism. Yet many of these priorities don't qualify under Oregon's restrictive definition of "tourism-related facilities."

Across Oregon's 241 cities, the message is the same: local leaders know what their communities need. I urge all legislators to support HB 4148, and allow Oregon cities greater flexibility to thrive.