

Submitter: Gordon Feighner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148

My name is Gordon Feighner and I am co-owner with my wife, Katie Prevost, of Jam on Hawthorne, a breakfast restaurant in SE Portland. I also serve as Secretary of the Board of the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association. I urge you to vote NO on HB 4148 and maintain the current requirement of 70% of new lodging taxes going towards investment in tourism infrastructure and facilities.

Oregon statutes governing local TLT have been working well for over two decades. Oregon's lodging businesses collect over \$220 million in TLT for local governments every year. These taxes are assessed on the sale of temporary accommodation even though other business types pay no sales tax in the state.

Oregon's economic recovery is too fragile to open the door to additional taxes at the state and local level. Tourism has struggled to rebound to pre-pandemic levels, and additional expenses levied on visitors may cause them to consider spending their travel dollars elsewhere. If this bill is passed, local jurisdictions looking to increase revenue will forego investment in tourism facilities to serve their own local priorities. This shift will come at the expense of Oregon's hospitality industry and the livelihoods of those of us who work in it.

I encourage you to vote NO on this bill to help Oregon retain its commitment to using local lodging taxes as intended—to grow visitation, sustain jobs, and support tourism-related facilities. Protecting the integrity of these investments will ensure tourism continues to serve as a vital economic engine while also supporting healthy communities.