

CURTIS WRIGHT
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February 7, 2026

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters, and members of the House Committee on Revenue:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 4148, which seeks to modify the allocation of Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) revenue. This bill threatens to undermine the economic foundation of Oregon's tourism industry and the communities it supports.

Tourism is a crucial economic driver for Oregon, showing a proven multiplier effect throughout local economies. Studies show that each dollar spent on tourism promotion can generate between \$7 to \$10 in visitor spending, boosting economic activity well beyond the initial investment. The current TLT structure was carefully designed to reinvest in the industry being taxed, encouraging sustainable growth and steady revenue for our communities. Removing these funds from tourism promotion and development through HB 4148 would weaken our ability to attract visitors who support local businesses, create jobs, and strengthen our economy.

I served five years on the board of Visit Corvallis, including two years as chair. I understand the challenges of attracting more visitors to Oregon's cities. Additionally, I served 11 years on the City of Corvallis Budget Commission, with 9 years as chair. I am deeply aware of the financial challenges Oregon's cities face in funding essential services residents rely on. Despite being promoted as a solution, HB 4148 would only worsen the problem.

HB 4148 is particularly harmful to small, locally owned businesses that depend on tourism and are crucial to many Oregon communities. These businesses often lack the resources for large-scale individual marketing efforts and rely on collective destination marketing to attract visitors. HB 4148 will undoubtedly reduce budgets and severely limit this economy-boosting activity.

Beyond marketing, tourism agencies have evolved to focus not only on promotion but also on sustainable tourism management that balances economic gains with environmental protection and community livability. They play essential roles in supporting local nonprofits and community events enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. In many Oregon cities, destination marketing organizations help fill funding gaps for cherished local events that cities cannot afford. Without this support, many community traditions would struggle to survive.

The tourism and hospitality industries offer important entry-level and career advancement opportunities for many Oregonians, including young people, immigrants, and those seeking flexible jobs. These sectors often serve as stepping stones for workforce development and career growth. Reducing tourism promotion would directly affect job creation in these key sectors, impacting not only the visitor economy but also the broader workforce development pipeline.

The existing TLT structure has proven its effectiveness in boosting Oregon's tourism industry while also producing substantial revenue for local governments.

I urge you to oppose HB 4148 and defend the current TLT structure as an essential tool for economic growth across Oregon. Tourism not only attracts visitors but also sustains entire communities through various economic and social channels.

Taking food from the goose is not the way to produce more golden eggs for Oregon's cities.

Sincerely,



Curtis Wright