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February 26, 2026

To the Honorable Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Re: Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce Opposition to HB 4148A

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 4148A and urge you to vote "no" on this bill.

For background, every Roseburg Area Chamber legislative and public affairs agenda since 2004 has stated "RACC will oppose any attempt to repeal or change the state of Oregon's 2003 Transient Lodging Tax law, or legislation that would lessen percentages of TLT funds dedicated to visitor services and tourism promotion." The chamber holds this position for no other reason than in protection of our local businesses. The chamber reviews its positions annually and this remains a core issue, because any diversion of TLT dollars is harmful to local business and viewed as an anti-business action by RACC.

RACC's opposition has nothing to do with our chamber operations. We do not receive 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. We oppose simply in defense of local business—many of them small businesses.

RACC previously submitted opposition testimony on HB 4148 on February 9 to the House Committee on Revenue, joining most every chamber and business organization in the state. Our opposition was founded in the fact that passage of HB 4148 would fundamentally alter the definitions set forth in the 2003 TLT legislation, which created the original 70/30 split. The RACC and local businesses actively participated in the 2003 legislation. If passed, HB 4148A would significantly diminish funds needed for tourism promotion, marketing and facilities.

The amended HB 4148A before you, which passed out of the House, is an alleged compromise from the 60-40 split in the original bill to a 50-50 split, and does **not** have this chamber's support for the simple fact that local municipalities' arguments for taking these funds are not valid but only reflect a complete lack of responsible stewardship of TLT funds by these municipalities over the years. However, the most egregious inclusion from the -7 amendment is **the wholly unacceptable proposal of "resilience grants" in this bill**. We oppose that the funds for these small business grants would come out of the 50% "bucket" of funds dedicated to tourism marketing and promotion.



*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.*

We know from years of experience and expertise that when municipalities have grant dollars to expend to local businesses and organizations in the name of "tourism," very rarely does the use of those funds materialize into legitimate or significant positive impact on growing tourism or providing support to our local tourism/hospitality industry.

There already exists countless funding opportunities for small businesses and if local governments feel the need to create this new granting option, the funds should come from that municipality's 50% discretionary "bucket" of TLT funds, not tourism promotion dollars.

HB 4148A already significantly reduces the amount of money that can be used to promote tourism in our community. Our local small businesses need customers, not grants or handouts. The proposal from the -7 amendment will shift even more of those funds away from visitor promotion, hurting our tourism/hospitality industry and the many local businesses, mostly small business, reliant upon a healthy tourism/hospitality industry.

As a final reminder, changing the current state of TLT percentages and use is a clear betrayal of an important business industry in our community and our state. It is 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. It is an industry that then **compromised** on the percentage, giving up 30% to local governments. It is an industry, now, being forced into additional compromises not in its best interest. It is an industry made up of small businesses, employers, individuals and employees that will all face adverse impacts resulting from diminished promotional dollars. Thus, further resulting in negative employment and economic impacts to local communities.

Creating business grants from this fund does not align with the original intent. Tourism dollars should be used to support tourism, and we need to protect the integrity of a system that works for our rural communities and the state as a whole. Please show you value our local businesses with your "NO" vote on HB 4148A. Thank you for your time, consideration and service.

Respectfully,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
DOUGLAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM  
President & CEO