



101 South A Street, PO Box 155, Springfield, OR 97477  
541-746-1651 | www.springfield-chamber.org

February 27, 2026

Opposition to HB 4148 –7: Concerns Regarding the -7 Amendment to HB 4148

Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue:

On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, representing nearly 800 employers and organizations across Lane County, I write to express specific concerns with the -7 amendment to HB 4148.

While we have concerns about moving to a 50:50 allocation structure, our primary objection is to the policy shift embedded in the -7 amendment. Expanding allowable uses within the tourism share to include “resiliency grants” fundamentally changes the purpose of the Transient Lodging Tax. **Small business operators in the lodging, restaurant, recreation, and retail sectors consistently tell us they want more customers to grow and compete, not grant programs designed to offset declines in visitor demand.**

As outlined in our prior testimony, Oregon’s TLT framework was intentionally designed to dedicate a defined share of revenue to tourism promotion and related facilities, ensuring the tax functions as a demand generation tool that brings *new* visitors and *new* spending into our communities. Tourism funding supports destination marketing, event recruitment, and long-term competitiveness, investments that grow economic activity and sustain the revenue stream itself.

**By reducing the tourism allocation and redirecting remaining funds toward grant making, the -7 amendment delivers a double hit to the demand generation engine that sustains Oregon’s hospitality and visitor economy.**

The experience during COVID provides a useful contrast. Temporary federal, state, and local **relief grants were necessary to replace lost revenue and stabilize small businesses during mandated shutdowns. They preserved cash flow in an emergency. But they did not drive new visitation or generate new customers.** They were stabilization tools, not economic growth strategies.

The visitor economy is a significant contributor to Oregon’s overall economy, supporting hotels, restaurants, retailers, event venues, outdoor recreation providers, and cultural institutions across the state. Protecting the integrity and intent of TLT ensures that this sector remains competitive and continues generating new economic activity.

We respectfully urge the Committee to reconsider the -7 amendment and preserve the core purpose of Oregon’s Transient Lodging Tax framework.

Vonnie Mikkelsen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Mikkelsen".

President and CEO

Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce