

Submitter: Allen Barber

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148

Disclaimer: This testimony is submitted as a private citizen. These views are my own and do not represent the official position of my employer.

To the Members of the Committee,

My name is Allen Barber, and I have been a resident of the Oregon Coast since 2011. Currently living in Cannon Beach, I have spent over five years working in the Chamber of Commerce and tourism sector. I am writing to express my opposition to HB 4148.

While I recognize the fiscal pressures on local governments, this bill treats the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) as a general revenue source rather than the strategic economic tool it was designed to be. By shifting the 70/30 split toward a 50/50 model, we risk "starving the engine" of our coastal economy.

In my professional experience, tourism enables our small businesses to maintain year-round operations. The 70% portion dedicated to tourism promotion is what fuels the marketing that keeps people coming to Cannon Beach during the rainy shoulder season. Without that dedicated reinvestment, our local restaurants and shops would struggle to provide stable, year-round employment for my neighbors.

We should be looking for ways to support our cities without sacrificing the very industry that provides their economic foundation. I respectfully urge a No vote on HB 4148.