

March 1, 2026

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Request to amend HB 4148-7 to remove the undefined resiliency grant provisions

As a long-time resident of the rural community of Cottage Grove, I have been active as a volunteer with the promotion and marketing of our town to potential tourists. I collaborate with members of the local Chamber of Commerce and with Travel Lane County on events, video and digital promotions and marketing of our great community. We are blessed with great natural resources such as two reservoirs, forest and nature area trails, an Oregon Scenic Bikeway, waterfalls, covered bridges and wineries. The city has just completed a major renovation of its Historic Main Street district. I am currently working with the Lane County Parks Division to stabilize and restore two of our historic covered bridges that have fallen into disrepair.

I have had several conversations with many owners of small businesses, including restaurants and lodging establishments, and they have reported the importance of visitors' spending on the success of their businesses.

To divert TLT funds away from the current tourism promotion and marketing efforts to provide a limited number of individual businesses with undefined resiliency grants will be at the detriment of all the businesses that rely on travelers and visitors. It is best for our community to continue to use the TRT funds collected for tourism development and promotional efforts.

If businesses require specific resiliency support, that financial support should come through grants from the Business Oregon Small Business Sustainability Fund which is funded by Business Oregon's Strategic Reserve Fund (SRF) or some of the other 90+ Business Oregon programs.

Thank you for consideration of my request to remove the undefined resiliency grant provisions from HB 4148-7.

Stephen Lawn