



**Date:** March 2, 2026

**Name:** Brandie McNamee, Owner, Antelope Basecamp

**Bill Number and Committee:** HB 4148A – Testimony to the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Dear Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

My name is Brandie McNamee, and I own Antelope Basecamp, a new micro-cabin lodging project in Antelope, Oregon. We began operations in 2025 and continue to invest heavily in improvements throughout 2026. As one of the few emerging tourism businesses in one of Oregon’s smallest and most economically fragile communities, I want to share serious concerns about HB 4148A as currently written.

Tourism is one of the only viable economic engines for towns like Antelope. Our community has no grocery store, no gas station, and very limited services. The success of our start-up lodging project depends on strong partnerships with local governments, Chambers, and DMOs—organizations that help rural communities build visibility, attract visitors, and create the conditions for small businesses to survive. HB 4148A, in its current form, unintentionally threatens that progress.

Several elements of the bill raise significant concerns:

- **Many Central Oregon communities rely on TLT revenue.** Reducing their share would directly harm the very governments we depend on for infrastructure, permitting, and community development. Rural towns like Antelope cannot afford a cut of any kind.
- **The proposed resiliency grants lack clear definitions or guardrails.** Without clarity on what qualifies as resiliency, how grant sizes are determined, or how “small business” is defined, the program risks mismanagement and inconsistent distribution—especially harmful for rural areas that already struggle to compete for state-level funding.
- **Pulling resiliency grants from the same 50% used for tourism promotion creates internal competition.** Chambers and DMOs would be forced to compete with the very businesses they are meant to support. For a tiny town like Antelope, where we rely on regional DMOs to put us on the map, this would be devastating.
- **The bill focuses only on restaurants and lodging.** Rural tourism ecosystems are broader than that—activity providers, guides, artists, content creators, and cultural organizations all play a role. Excluding them creates inequity and confusion, especially in communities where tourism is still emerging.
- **Many DMOs already run grant programs.** In Central Oregon, programs like the Future Fund already support business resiliency. Creating a new statewide program without coordination risks duplication, inefficiency, and reduced impact.

For Antelope specifically, the consequences are especially severe. We are a community trying to rebuild after decades of economic decline. Antelope Basecamp is one of the first new tourism investments in years, and our success depends on stable, predictable tourism promotion funding. Any reduction or redirection of TLT resources—especially without clear structure—would slow or even reverse the fragile momentum we’ve worked so hard to create.

I respectfully ask the committee to pause this bill so stakeholders can collaborate on a version that strengthens—not destabilizes—the tourism ecosystem across Oregon, including its smallest communities.

Thank you for your time and for supporting the people and places working to protect and promote Oregon’s natural and cultural treasures. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony for your consideration.

*Brandie McNamee*  
Owner, Antelope Basecamp