

Submitter: Vonnie Mikkelsen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148

Dear Senators, I'm extremely disappointed to hear proponents of the -7 amendment to HB4148 misrepresent the Chambers of Commerce' intent and argument for best use of promotion dollars. This is not a "minor tweak." The 50/50 allocation may be a palatable compromise; however, advocates of the -7 amendment are missing the point regarding the core purpose of a resiliency grant. Grants are appropriate in true emergencies, wildfire, flood, or mandated shutdowns, where government intervention is necessary to stabilize businesses facing extraordinary disruption. That is a proper role for flexible local government resources. It is not the purpose of tourism promotion dollars, which exist specifically to generate new demand and bring new customers through the door.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the -7 amendment during this morning's hearing.

Vonnie Mikkelsen
president and CEO