

Submitter: Florian Raqueno  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4148  
RE: Opposition to HB 4148 (as amended)  
Chair, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

Tourism is a vital economic driver in Washington County and across Oregon. Visitor spending supports restaurants, retailers, lodging providers, cultural attractions, and event-related businesses throughout Beaverton and the surrounding region. For many small businesses, like mine, consistent visitor activity is what sustains operations, supports local jobs, and generates the tax revenue that funds essential public services.

The Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) is a self-imposed tax on the tourism industry. When established, its purpose was clear: reinvest those dollars into tourism promotion and related activities to grow Oregon's visitor economy. That reinvestment model has helped communities compete for conferences, sporting events, and leisure travel in a highly competitive regional marketplace.

While we can live with a 50-50 compromise structure, we oppose the creation of resilience grants funded through TLT dollars. Our local small businesses need customers — not grants or handouts. Redirecting tourism promotion dollars into grant programs moves funding away from its original intent and reduces the resources available to attract visitors in the first place.

HB 4148 already significantly reduces the amount of funding that can be used to promote tourism at both the local and state levels. The -7 amendments would shift even more of those dollars away from tourism promotion, further weakening a system designed to generate economic activity. Policies that reallocate existing tourism funds without expanding the overall visitor economy risk diminishing the very activity that sustains small businesses across the state.

Tourism dollars should be used to support tourism. Maintaining the integrity of the TLT structure is especially important for rural communities and regions that rely heavily on visitor spending to stabilize their economies. Protecting this framework ensures Oregon remains competitive and continues to benefit from a model that has demonstrated measurable economic impact.

For these reasons, my company opposes HB 4148 and the -7 amendments and urges the committee to reject this legislation.

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