



March 2, 2026

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Central Point, I respectfully urge your support for HB 4148A, which modernizes the distribution of local transient lodging tax (TLT) revenues to better reflect the interdependent relationship between tourism and the communities that host it.

From county fairs and festivals to outdoor recreation and cultural events, communities across the state welcome millions of visitors each year. Visitors that support local businesses, generate economic activity, and help our communities shine on a larger stage. However, behind that success is a growing strain on the public systems that make tourism possible.

Police, fire, public works, emergency response, traffic control, and sanitation services experience sharp spikes in demand during major events. Roads, parks, and public facilities see heavier use, and the cost of meeting these needs continues to rise.

Central Point is one small example of this dynamic. Our city is home to the Jackson County Expo, one of Southern Oregon's premier event venues. Each year, the Expo draws hundreds of thousands of visitors for concerts, expos and fairs. While these events bring significant economic benefit to the region, they also place a substantial burden on city infrastructure and public safety services.

As shared by Central Point Police Chief Scott Logue, during the 2024 Jackson County Fair, police calls for service increased by 14%. During our 2024 Fourth of July parade, which draws thousands of visitors, calls for service increased by 49%. These are not hypothetical impacts; they are real and recurring costs that must be absorbed by the city's general fund.

The current TLT revenue split creates a disconnect: the revenues are generated by visitors, but our residents are left picking up the tab, and our cities are constrained in their ability to reinvest those dollars into the services that visitors and residents alike rely on

HB 4148A addresses this imbalance in a measured and responsible way. By adjusting the distribution to a 50/50 split, the bill restores local control so communities can invest in both tourism and essential city services according to their unique needs.

This bill is not a step away from tourism, it is a recognition that tourism depends on well-functioning public systems. Visitors expect safe streets, clean facilities, and responsive emergency services just as much as residents do.

The current 70/30 TLT split was established more than twenty years ago, before today's tourism volumes, service demands, and fiscal realities. The world has changed, and our funding tools need to evolve with it.

For these reasons, the City of Central Point respectfully urges your support for HB 4148A.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Clayton

City of Central Point, City Manager