



LACEY BEATY
34th Mayor of Beaverton

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Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, members of the committee,

My name is Lacey Beaty, and I am the very lucky Mayor of Beaverton. I'm here today in support of HB 4148 because it gives cities like mine a little more flexibility with our Transient Lodging Tax revenue – and flexibility right now is not a luxury, it's a necessity.

In Beaverton, our TLT has been transformative. It helped us build the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts (PRCA), a public-private partnership that quite literally puts arts and culture at the heart of our downtown. The city owns the Reser, and we are deeply invested in its success – and in the success of every restaurant, small business, and hotel that benefits from the visitors it brings.

That commitment is part of why Livability ranked Beaverton as the second-best place to live in the West. We're proud of that. We've worked for that. We want to be more than a place people sleep—we want to be a place people experience.

In just four years, nearly 200,000 have walked through the doors of the Reser. That's fantastic for foot traffic and hotel stays. But it also means more demand for public safety, sanitation, and other city services.

In 2024, 68 percent of citations and 40 percent of arrests involved individuals who don't live in Beaverton. Visitors are welcome – truly - but the impact on services is real.

We've invested in keeping downtown safe and welcoming. Our Police Downtown Bike Team takes a relationship-based approach to homelessness, connecting people to services instead of just moving them along. We also have two full-time staff dedicated solely to cleaning litter and graffiti, so our public spaces reflect the pride we have in our city.

But here's the hard truth: those programs are funded by our General Fund. And we are now entering our fourth consecutive budget cycle facing a significant deficit—a \$15 million shortfall. That puts many of these very programs at risk.



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If we want to remain a destination, we have to be able to maintain the basics – safety, cleanliness, and core services. Greater flexibility with future TLT revenue would allow us to support the tourism economy while also protecting the community that makes tourism possible in the first place.

HB 4148 simply gives us the tools to keep doing what's working. And as the very lucky Mayor of Beaverton, I'd like to keep it that way.

I respectfully ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Lacey Beaty
Mayor of Beaverton