



*From the Offices of Representative Walters, Javadi*

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## **Oregon House Clears Bill to Boost Local Control Over Tourism Revenue**

**SALEM, Ore.** - Today, **Representative Jules Walters (D-West Linn)** and **Representative Cyrus Javadi (D-Tillamook)** announced [House Bill 4148](#); the LOCAL Act (Local Opportunities for Community Advancement and Livability Act) officially passed the Oregon House of Representatives and will now move to the Senate for consideration.

The LOCAL Act restores local decision-making authority over transient lodging tax (TLT) revenues by modernizing how those dollars may be used. Under current law, cities and counties are required to allocate 70 percent of TLT revenue to tourism promotion and just 30 percent to general governmental services. HB 4148 updates that structure to a 60 percent general fund and 40 percent promotion split: better reflecting the realities faced by communities experiencing sustained tourism growth.

In addition to rebalancing the revenue ratio, the LOCAL Act creates a new, targeted opportunity within the promotional share. The bill allows cities and counties to directly award grants to small businesses in the restaurant and lodging industries to support infrastructure upgrades and building improvements. These investments will help locally owned establishments remain safe, accessible, and competitive while continuing to serve both residents and visitors.

“Tourism promotion has worked,” said **Rep. Walters**. “But the success of that promotion has increased demands on local infrastructure, public safety, and services. The LOCAL Act recognizes that communities need flexibility to reinvest in the places and people that make tourism possible in the first place.”

**Rep. Javadi** said, “Healthy tourism isn’t just about ads and glossy brochures. It’s about towns with safe Main streets, small businesses with safe buildings, working utilities, and communities that feel livable year-round. If we want people visiting the Oregon coast, Central Oregon, the Crater Lake region, and main streets across this state twenty years from now, we have to think beyond next quarter’s marketing plan. HB 4148 keeps a strong commitment to promotion while giving local communities the flexibility to reinvest in the infrastructure and services that make

this place worth visiting in the first place. That's not a retreat from tourism. It's how you sustain it."

The bill maintains a strong commitment to tourism marketing while acknowledging that mature destinations require a more balanced approach - one that supports community livability, small businesses, and the public services relied on by residents and visitors alike.

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