

House Committee On Revenue

RE: HB 4146 – Increase in Lodging Tax

TO: Committee Members,

There are consequences to raising the lodging tax that will seriously have an adverse effect on tourism.

Our neighbors to the north and south have zero lodging tax. Increase our rate may cause tourist to travel through our state but not stop for night.

To remain competitive, a lodging facility may have to absorb the increase leaving them with minor repairs and refurbishing that draws tourist.

HB 2267 passed in 2008 has been successful, but that does not mean that putting more into tourism will increase the benefit. There is a point when increases only mean more waste and doesn't increase the return. It appears that more could be done with the current tax level.

I encourage you to vote NO.

Donna Bleiler

On behalf of my family that

Manages hotels.