

Submitter: Uresh Patel

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB3159

ROKK LLC owns the Quality Inn downtown convention center, located few blocks from the Oregon Convention Center and Moda Center, 431 NE Multnomah St. Portland, Or. 97232. We have been struggling for last 4 years due to pandemic and continue to struggle financially. Our room revenue has dropped by 90% due to pandemic and has not recovered. With concerts coming back, it has helped but large conventions are still just coming in and not enough to offset all the losses we have suffered during the last few years. We understand the lodging taxes must have dropped as well but increasing the lodging tax will not increase lodging tax, in fact, it may even dampen the slow growth we see in our room revenue. City of Portland just raised there TID tax on lodging taxes, and now state wants to raise it even more? Why would someone want to come to a city where lodging taxes are completely out of control. When we tell guest that our lodging tax is 16.00% and may soon be over 17 percent they are shocked. This is not the way to invite new business and tourism in our state. We should be doing everything we can to help the lodging industry in the state recover so that we can get our revenues up and if we ever do recover, then and only then should we even think of raising the state lodging tax or any sort of lodging tax. We are unable to raise our room rates because the lodging tax is so high, Wish we can get up one day and say lets raise our rates by 50%. Please consider assisting the lodging industry by voting no on this bill and help the industry recover so that one day lodging industry itself will not mind raising this tax.