



February 4, 2026

Re: HB 4134 Opposition

To: House Committee on Revenue

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

As the executive director of Travel Southern Oregon, the Regional Destination Management Organization charged with optimizing the investment of current state TLT dollars in Southern Oregon, I ask that you support the future growth of our tourism and hospitality industry, and the jobs it provides to 12,800 residents in Southern Oregon, **by opposing the further advancement of HB 4134 at this early stage.**

There seems to be a sense that the tourism industry is an endless source of abundance. Recent efforts to shift allocations for local transient lodging taxes to cover general fund expenditures are one way of re-directing the critical economic development dollars the tourism industry re-invests into Oregon's economy. HB 4134 is a more concerning example of one agency, ODFW, boldly asserting a claim on another agency's sole revenue stream.

The truth is our industry is still recovering from Covid impacts, fire impacts and a continuing uncertain economic environment for both domestic and international travelers. Portland remains down 30% from 2019 levels, and in the last year we have data, much of the state was flat in terms of growth in TLT and tax dollars generated.

Additionally, **HB 4134 would be a \$10 million Vacation Tax on Oregonians**==a disastrous move in this political and economic environment. All estimates suggest that 30%-40% of hotel stays in Oregon are by Oregonians seeing the great state we live in on vacation or on business. In the tourism industry we are serious about using the existing 1.5% state TLT as an economic development catalyst to drive more jobs and more economic impact from our industry. Simply doubling this tax on Oregonians' vacations serves no economic development

purpose whatsoever—it is simply a \$10 Million Vacation Tax on Oregonians masked as niche support for wildlife programs that can be funded through normal appropriations channels.

The current 1.5% statewide tax is added on top of many city and county taxes collected at the local level – taxes which can total as much as 16%. The hospitality industry has serious concerns about the cumulative effect of a statewide lodging tax increase. Increasing the statewide tax directly threatens Oregon's market position as we compete for conferences, sporting events, and group travel.

Please show that you respect and value the immense economic contributions of the tourism and hospitality industry to the state of Oregon by opposing HB 4134.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Hackett".

Robert Hackett  
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