

Submitter:

Jose Mota

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I am writing to respectfully oppose HB 4134, which would increase Oregon's statewide transient lodging tax by 1.25%.

While I strongly support wildlife conservation, habitat restoration, and wildfire risk reduction, I am concerned that this bill relies on a funding mechanism that may disproportionately impact vulnerable communities. The tourism and hospitality sector employs a high number of low-wage workers, immigrants, and people of color, particularly in rural and gateway communities. Increases to lodging taxes can reduce demand for travel, leading to fewer work hours, job instability, or downward pressure on wages for those workers.

Small, locally owned lodging businesses—many of which operate on thin margins—may also be disproportionately affected. These businesses are often deeply embedded in their communities and provide essential employment opportunities. Additionally, higher lodging costs can limit access to travel and outdoor recreation for lower-income families, raising concerns about equity and who is able to enjoy Oregon's natural resources.

Conservation funding should be stable, broadly shared, and aligned with environmental justice principles. I encourage the Legislature to explore alternative funding approaches that support wildlife and wildfire resilience without placing a disproportionate burden on a single industry or on communities that already face economic challenges.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state. I appreciate your consideration of these concerns.