

Submitter:

Robert Hart

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

House Committee Members:

This amendment is the camel's nose under the tent. The current lodgers tax is directed towards tourism-related activities. The tax raise is truly minimal, but its implications are not. It dilutes the focus of the original legislation.

I am a retired historian. One of the nonprofit functions directly supported by the current unamended legislation is Lane County's history museum and historical society. In this commemorative year celebrating national independence, it would be ironic to vote to cut off one's nose despite their face. Our populace needs more, not less, historical knowledge. Tourists appreciate the uniqueness of their travel destinations. Their destination's unique identity is enhanced by helping visitors understand how what they are currently experiencing came to be.

Additional taxes are rarely appreciated and this tax increase is insidious because it dilutes the tourism-related focus of the current legislation. Please reject this well-meaning attempt to rob Peter to pay Paul.