

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB 4134 – Oppose Increase in Transient Lodging Tax

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

My name is JoAnna Eisler, Executive Director of Meet in Central Oregon and a small business owner based in Redmond, Oregon. My work drives meetings, incentives, and conferences that fuel Central Oregon's tourism economy, supporting thousands of local jobs through transient lodging.

I strongly oppose HB 4134, which would raise Oregon's transient lodging tax by 1.25% to generate \$25 million annually for wildlife programs. This hike directly threatens an industry recovering from pandemic losses, where lodging providers will pass costs to guests, deterring group events, conventions, and family travel critical to my organization and our region.

Economic Harm to Tourism

- Smaller Central Oregon operators, already facing high costs, risk losing business as Oregon's rates climb toward less competitive states like Washington and Montana.
- Travel Portland has flagged risks to conferences; for Central Oregon, this means fewer events and reduced visitor spending.

Pandora's Box for Future Taxes

Opening this door sets a dangerous precedent—a "Pandora's box" inviting endless tax hikes on tourism without voter approval. It erodes business confidence at a time when predictable costs are essential for growth and job creation in our visitor economy.

Passage requires a supermajority; I urge a "no" vote to safeguard tourism and local livelihoods.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
JoAnna Eisler from Redmond Oregon
Executive Director, Meet in Central Oregon
joanna@visitcentraloregon.com, 541-480-0691

