

Submitter: Matthew Victor
On Behalf Of: Hotel Managers
Committee: House Committee on Revenue
Measure: HB 4134

Written Testimony – Opposition

I strongly oppose HB 4134.

HB 4134 would increase the transient lodging tax by adding:

- 1.5% for the Oregon Tourism Commission,
- 1.0% for the Recovering Oregon's Wildlife Fund Subaccount, and
- 0.25% for other specified purposes.

These increased charges place an unfair burden on visitors and the tourism industry to fund programs that have little connection to the source of the tax. Wildlife conservation and related activities should not be funded primarily through taxes on overnight stays.

Oregon is already struggling with businesses leaving the state. Increasing lodging taxes will only make Oregon less attractive to tourists, who are already facing rising travel costs. Driving away visitors will hurt local communities, small businesses, and workers who depend on tourism revenue.

This proposal comes at the same time as an animal rights initiative that aims to ban hunting and fishing—activities that bring many visitors to Oregon and support rural economies. Together, these policies send a clear message that Oregon is becoming more expensive and less welcoming to tourists.

If Oregon wants to remain a competitive and desirable vacation destination, it should not continue to increase taxes on those who choose to visit. For these reasons, I strongly oppose HB 4134.