



February 3, 2026

RE: Opposition to HB 4134 – Proposed Increase to the Statewide Transient Lodging Tax

Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 4134. The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce represents hundreds of employers and organizations across Washington County. Our members support tax policies that foster economic growth, maintain competitiveness, and avoid placing disproportionate burdens on any single industry. An increase to the statewide Transient Lodging Tax is inconsistent with these objectives and risks weakening economic activity that supports local businesses and public revenues throughout Oregon.

HB 4134 would increase the statewide Transient Lodging Tax, raising costs for visitors and placing additional strain on Oregon's hospitality and tourism sector. This industry is particularly sensitive to price competitiveness and broader economic conditions. As lodging taxes increase, the total cost of visiting Oregon communities rises, reducing our ability to compete effectively for visitors, events, and group travel that often evaluate destinations based on overall affordability.

In communities such as Beaverton, the effects of higher lodging costs extend well beyond hotels and short-term rentals. Overnight visitors play a critical role in supporting local restaurants, retailers, entertainment venues, and employment, especially in areas that rely heavily on visitor activity. Tourism is a meaningful contributor to the Washington County economy, and even modest increases in lodging costs can influence travel decisions, shorten stays, or shift visitation to competing destinations, adversely affecting small and locally owned businesses.

It is also important to consider HB 4134 within the broader context of existing lodging taxes. This proposal would further increase the cumulative lodging tax burden on visitors to our region, positioning Beaverton and surrounding communities at a competitive disadvantage compared to other destinations. This is particularly relevant for attracting conferences, sporting events, meetings, and other group travel that generate significant economic activity.

For these reasons, the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges the House Committee on Revenue to oppose HB 4134. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alicia M. Bermes

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