

Submitter: Erik Ostrander
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Good afternoon,

My wife and I operate a small family owned hotel in Cannon Beach. It has been family owned and operated for over 60 years and over the years we have seen customers become more and more price sensitive even in places like Cannon Beach. We made the decision years ago that we wanted to continue to provide lodging to visitors at a price point that they can afford. The Oregon coast is the Peoples Coast and it belongs to all of us, the City of Cannon Beach increasing lodging tax to pay for facilities that have nothing to do with lodging visitors and Clatsop county increasing lodging tax again to pay for county expenses that have nothing to do with our lodging visitors was wrong. This increase in lodging tax to pay for a habitat conservation plan that has very little accountability and collects monies from one portion of the visitor population does not make any sense to me. All Oregonians, all Oregon businesses and all visitors to our beautiful state benefit from the amazing wildlife and scenic views. It is not only hotels in Oregon that see a benefit from the conservation of and preservation of the natural beauty; restaurants, breweries, sporting good retailers, and even the film industry capitalize on and substantially benefit as well as the property values of residents who have the privilege of owning property here.

I would like to see this habitat conservation plan made more robust and the costs of it to be more spread out among all of us who have been benefitting from and will continue to benefit from a healthy ecosystem.

Thank you,
Erik Ostrander