

Submitter:

Robert Savage

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

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

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.

Can we consider reducing expenses? Our tax and spend attitude has only made it more expensive to live in Oregon. I'm sure each and everyone of you is aware that Oregon just ranked #1 for the worst place to retire in the USA. I'm not proud of this, I hope you feel the same.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Robert Savage