

Submitter: Jaydeep Patel
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134
Members of the Committee,

I own and operate several motels and hotels across Oregon. I'm writing to you today not just as a business owner, but as an employer of local residents who depend on the health of our tourism industry to provide for their families.

I'm asking you to oppose HB 4134. While a 1.25% increase might look small on paper, the real world impact on our operations and our guests is much heavier than it appears.

The Reality of Rising Costs

The truth is, our industry is already stretched thin. Over the last few years, we've seen a massive spike in the cost of doing business such as labor, insurance, utilities, and general maintenance have all gone up. We can't simply keep hiking our rates to cover these costs because our guests are incredibly price sensitive.

When you add another tax on top of these rising overhead costs, you're essentially pricing Oregon out of the market. We are already competing with neighboring states for every traveler's dollar, and in many of our markets, the total tax burden on a single night's stay is already at a tipping point.

The Local Impact

When travelers see a higher total bill, they stay fewer nights or skip the trip entirely. My business feels that immediately, but so do my employees.

Reduced hours: Lower occupancy means fewer shifts for housekeeping, front desk staff, and maintenance crews.

The "Ripple Effect": When my rooms are empty, the local diner down the street sees fewer customers, and the nearby gift shops lose sales. In our smaller rural and coastal towns, the lodging industry is the anchor for the entire local economy.

Conclusion

Our industry is still trying to find its footing after several years of extreme volatility. Now is not the time to add more strain to small and mid-scale operators who are already doing more with less.

I respectfully urge you to consider the cumulative burden these taxes place on us and

to vote no on HB 4134.

Thank you for your time and for listening to the concerns of Oregon's small business owners.