

Submitter:

Martin McAllister

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I manage the second largest hotel in the state of Oregon and I am very concerned about this increase to lodging taxes. With this increase in Portland we position ourselves as the second most expensive city to hold an event or conference at just below Seattle and ahead of San Francisco. We are struggling tremendously to just get events and conference planners and their boards to consider Portland. The city has been battling negative perception issues for years now and the impact is staggering. My hotel hasn't operated anywhere near 2019 levels since the "recovery" started. In fact we took a step back in 2025 and dropped to 34% below 2019's revenues. We are going in the wrong direction. We are doing everything we can to provide hours for our employees, many of whom have been working at this hotel for over 25 years. Business is way down. Adding an additional cost to planners who are being pressured to keep costs down would be a significant deterrent to them booking here, particularly when you add in the pressure they get from the boards they report to and all of the negative perceptions that exist about Portland. It would be a huge mistake and drive desperately needed business away at a time when that business is critical to our survival. I strongly oppose this increase in lodging tax on behalf of the more than 200 employees at my hotel.