

Submitter: Jean Lee
On Behalf Of: Siltcoos Station Retreats
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on the proposed lodging tax increase.

I strongly oppose this proposal. As a small business owner of vacation lodging, Siltcoos Station Retreats, this proposal would result in direct harm to my family and business. At a time when inflation continues to strain households and businesses alike, increasing the cost of lodging further places an unnecessary burden on both travelers and the businesses that serve them. Tourism is often the first industry to feel the impact of economic pressure, and policies that make travel more expensive only accelerate that harm.

This proposed increase is particularly concerning because the additional funds are not directed toward promoting tourism, marketing Oregon as a destination, or supporting the businesses that generate this revenue in the first place. Instead, it raises the cost of doing business while offering no direct reinvestment into the tourism economy. Lodging providers—especially small, locally owned short-term rentals—will be forced to absorb higher administrative and pricing pressures or pass costs on to customers, making Oregon less competitive compared to neighboring states.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of Oregon's economy. Many operate on thin margins and are still recovering from years of economic uncertainty. Tourism-driven businesses support local jobs, rural communities, and entire regional economies. When travel demand declines due to higher costs, the effects ripple outward—impacting restaurants, retailers, event venues, and service workers alike.

Now is not the time to increase financial barriers to commerce or travel. If the goal is to strengthen Oregon's economy, policies should protect and promote tourism, not discourage it. I urge policymakers to reject the proposed lodging tax increase and instead pursue solutions that support economic growth, small businesses, and Oregon's long-term competitiveness as a destination.

Thank you for your consideration.