

Submitter:

Ami Patel

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I respectfully oppose HB 4134, which would raise the state transient lodging tax, which is especially harmful for small independent motels.

Small independent motels in Portland already operate within a competitive market, burdened by high local lodging taxes and modest tourism growth. In Portland and Multnomah County, the local transient lodging tax rate is already approximately 11.5% on top of state tax requirements.

Increasing the state transient lodging tax under HB 4134 will further raise costs for guests, reduce demand, and put Portland's smaller lodging businesses at a disadvantage — especially when employment and travel recovery is at its lowest. Unlike national brands, small independents cannot offset Revenue losses and fee structures that hide taxes.

It is also completely unfair to target of one industry. Conservation and natural resource funding benefits all Oregonians, not just visitors. Funding these programs solely through lodging taxes places the burden on a single sector.

At the same time, motel owners are still facing rising insurance premiums, labor costs, utilities, maintenance, and regulatory requirements.

For these reasons, I respectfully oppose HB 4134.