

Submitter:

Brock Fisher

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

To whom it may concern,

My name is Brock Fisher, I am the Operations Manager for Imperial River Company in Maupin, Oregon. We provide lodging, camping, and guided raft trips on the Lower Deschutes River. While I support the goal of conserving Oregon's wildlife and landscapes, I am deeply concerned about the approach this bill takes by raising the statewide transient lodging tax and dedicating those funds in a way that may have unintended economic consequences.

I am writing today to formally state that I oppose a potential increase of 1.25% to the state lodging tax, a larger increase than it's initial introduction at just 1%

As a small business, we operate on thin margins and work very hard to employ local residents at fair, living wages. We take pride in continuing to be active and supportive members of our community, as well as our environment.

As operating costs have increased significantly over the past few years, I have grown increasingly concerned. I have worked very hard to build a life dedicated to connecting people to incredible experiences within our natural world. As operating costs rise, the prices of every operator in the state follow. I fear bills such as this will continue to put more pressure on consumers and eventually price the average American out of positive recreational experiences, relaxing getaways, and memorable family vacations.

I am concerned that insufficient consideration has been given to how this tax increase will affect small lodging operators, local businesses, and the overall competitiveness of Oregon's tourism economy. Increasing tax rates may push visitors to neighboring states with lower costs, ultimately reducing overall revenue for communities that depend on visitors most.

Moreover, I believe that tying critical conservation funding solely to a tax that fluctuates with travel trends makes it less reliable in economic downturns or during periods of reduced tourism. Long-term environmental stewardship requires stable and diversified funding mechanisms, and dedicating a transient lodging tax risks making conservation funding volatile and tied to an industry outside the control of land managers and rural communities such as mine.

Finally, this bill effectively earmarks tax revenue for one set of priorities, reducing the

Legislature's flexibility to respond to other urgent needs within the state budget. While natural resource conservation is undeniably important, Oregon must also be able to fund education, healthcare, infrastructure, workforce support, and housing programs without over-reliance on sector-specific taxes.

For these reasons, I urge legislators to reject HB 4134 in its current form and instead pursue more balanced, equitable, and sustainable revenue strategies that protect Oregon's natural heritage without unduly burdening one segment of our economy.

I thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

Respectfully,  
Brock Fisher  
Imperial River Company