

Submitter: Matt Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Matt Smith, and I am the General Manager for The Holman hotel in Downtown Salem. We are in opposition to HB 4134.

Last session's proposed bill would have increased the state's transient lodging tax (TLT) from 1.5% to 2.75%—a 1.25% increase that would nearly double the current statewide rate (nearly 50% of which would be paid by Oregonians traveling within the state). Rather than the increase being used 100% for economic development in support of existing tourism assets as has been precedent for decades, the increase was earmarked for wildlife recovery and conservation – nothing to do with bringing visitors to Oregon.

The State and local lodging taxes are designed to be an economic development tool to drive tourism and help our economy. They should only be raised only for projects related to tourism, that will allow more visitors to spend time and money within our state.

The city of Salem has been in an occupancy decline since June of 2025, but significant numbers. I feel as though this tax increase would further push our market occupancy in the red, as potential travelers and companies may look elsewhere for events due the current economic and political climate of our country.

Thank you,
Matt Smith