

HB 4134 Testimony Template – Lane County Opposition

February 4, 2026

Date: February 3, 2026

Bill and Committee: HB 4134 – House Committee on Revenue

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters and members of the House Committee on Revenue:

My name is Andy Vobora, and I have lived in Oregon for 55 years. During these years have participated in outdoor recreation activities, including hunting and fishing. Professionally, I spent the last decade working in the hospitality industry. I am writing in opposition to HB 4134 because it would increase the lodging tax rates in Lane County. While this increase may make our communities less competitive for visitors, events and economic activity, my biggest concern is that it impacts our local communities' opportunity to utilize lodging taxes to address their priorities. Lane County is working with its destination marketing organization - Travel Lane County - on the development of an infrastructure project that will boost economic impact while serving local youth and adults. Additionally, the City of Eugene is developing outdoor sports facilities that will need funding. The lodging tax is the logical funding mechanism for these types of projects because they will attract visitors to the region. However, if the State lodging tax rate is increased through HB4134, the opportunity to raise the local rate is likely impossible.

As an outdoor recreationalist, I've never had a problem paying fees to hunt and fish. I realize these fees don't cover the cost of operating ODF&W staff and projects, but the ODF&W has multiple funding sources while the hospitality industry has only the lodging tax. The strength of our visitor economy needs to be maintained and legislators should value the state and local taxes generated by a vibrant visitor economy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 4134 and vote no. Thank you for considering the perspective of Lane County businesses, workers and organizations.

Sincerely,

Andy Vobora
Retired
Eugene, Oregon