

Submitter:

Ryan Lane

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Date: February 4, 2026

Name: Ryan Lane

Bill Number and Committee: HB 4134 – Testimony to the House Committee on Revenue

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

My name is Ryan Lane and I am the General Manager of the Best Western Ponderosa Lodge in Sisters, Oregon. I am writing to respectfully oppose HB 4134, which would increase Oregon's statewide transient lodging tax by 1.25% and redirect those funds away from their intended purpose.

Transient lodging tax revenue was designed to be reinvested in local communities to support tourism as a proven economic development engine. Raising the statewide tax without a consistent, defensible framework for tourism investment risks undermining a system that has successfully strengthened Oregon's local economies and workforce for decades.

At a time when consumers are increasingly price conscious, this tax increase would make Oregon less competitive as a destination. Many visitors are fellow Oregonians, meaning this burden would fall largely on residents already facing a rising cost of living. Higher lodging costs also risk reducing visitation, ultimately shrinking the very tax base this bill relies on.

The hospitality industry employs a high number of low-wage workers, immigrants, and people of color, particularly in rural and gateway communities. Reduced travel demand can lead to fewer hours, job instability, and increased financial strain for these workers. Small, locally owned lodging properties would be disproportionately affected, harming local businesses and community employment.

While I strongly support wildlife conservation, habitat restoration, and wildfire risk reduction, funding for these priorities should be stable, broadly shared, and aligned with principles of equity and environmental justice. HB 4134 places a disproportionate burden on the lodging industry and alters the original intent of lodging tax revenue, making long-term tourism investment more difficult.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a no vote on HB 4134 and encourage the Legislature to pursue alternative funding approaches that do not compromise Oregon's tourism economy or workforce.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony.

Ryan Lane