

Submitter: Darlene Mueller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134
Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Darlene Mueller, and I am a young professional and business owner living and working in Oregon. I'm writing to respectfully and urgently oppose HB 4134, which would increase the statewide Transient Lodging Tax by 1.25%.

As someone early in my career, affordability matters. Not just for my own travel, but for the vitality of the communities I live, work, and spend time in. Lodging taxes are ultimately paid by visitors, but their impact is felt locally by hospitality workers, small lodging operators, and the small businesses that rely on tourism to stay viable year-round.

Oregon is already a higher-cost destination compared to neighboring states. Increasing the lodging tax further risks discouraging travel, conferences, and events that bring critical spending into local economies. That has real consequences for jobs, wages, and career opportunities especially for younger workers trying to build a future here.

I support thoughtful investments in Oregon, but this proposal places an outsized burden on one industry and risks unintended economic harm. I urge you to oppose HB 4134 and consider alternatives that protect jobs, small businesses, and long-term economic growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.