

Submitter:

Sharon Konopa

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

?Dear Chair Nathanson and House Revenue Committee Members,

I am so dismayed over this bill with the unfairness to us Oregonians. This is basically adding a sales tax to a select amount of Oregonians for a program that all Oregonians should be paying. This is poor policy making by scrambling to fund a state agency off the backs of lodging. This is not what the Transient Lodging Tax was for, it is for tourism related programs and mostly marketing our beautiful state. Plus paying for festivals and events in our own communities for us Oregonians to have some fun.

Increasing the TLT adds a cost onto families who save up their pennies to take a mini vacation in our beautiful state or go camping in an RV park at the coast. Many Oregonians cannot afford to go to Hawaii or Disneyland. But they can share a cabin in the mountains or resort with family for a weekend or week and get away from the city life. Why should they be singled out to pay this additional tax? Do you really feel this is fair? It's like you are punishing some Oregonians by applying a tax on to TLT that should be a tax on all Oregonians.

Albany's hotel stays are usually for families staying in town to visit their family, attend a graduation or enjoy our historic homes and events. Why should they have to pay this tax when you or I won't be?

I have been involved with local government policy making in Albany for decades. This tax sets a precedent and is unfair policy making in my opinion.

Please vote no on HB4134.

Best regards,

Sharon Konopa

Former Mayor of Albany