

February 4, 2026

TO: House Committee on Revenue **FROM:** Tina Patel, Hotel Owner & Representative of ORLA

Chairwoman Nathanson, Members of the Committee,

My name is Tina Patel. I stand before you today not only as a leader within the **Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association (ORLA)** but as a woman who came to this country as an immigrant with a dream of building a business here in our beautiful Oregon. Today, my family and I operate six hotels across the State.

I have spent years serving on various committees across this state, watching the data closely. I am here to tell you that the alarm bells are ringing: **Tourism in Oregon is starting to fall**. In my own backyard of Lane County, we have seen a staggering **drop** in tourism business recently.

The funds from the transient lodging tax were created for one reason: **Tourism Promotion**. They are the lifeline that allows us to tell the world why they should visit Oregon instead of Washington or California. This bill, **HB 4134**, seeks to break that promise by diverting those funds to non-tourism initiatives.

In my hotels, I see the faces of travelers every day. I also see the empty rooms when they decide our state has become too expensive. Between rising operational costs and the taxes already placed on bookings, we are reaching a breaking point. Increasing this tax is not going to help anyone in Oregon; it will only serve to drive business away and further jeopardize the jobs of the hardworking people, many of them with backgrounds like mine, who keep our industry running.

We do not need a higher tax; we need a protected reinvestment into the tourism initiatives that fuels our economy. On behalf of ORLA and the thousands of small business owners I represent, I strongly urge you to **oppose HB 4134**.

Thank you.