



February 4, 2026

**BOARD OFFICERS:**

**2026 CHAIR:**  
CARMELLE BIELENBERG  
Albany Area Chamber

**CHAIR ELECT:**  
ELI MATTHEWS  
The Chamber of  
Medford/Jackson County

**SECRETARY/TREASURER:**  
LISA FARQUHARSON  
The Dalles Area Chamber

**PAST CHAIR:**  
TOM HOFFERT  
Salem Area Chamber

**BOARD MEMBERS AT  
LARGE:**  
  
ALICIA BERMES  
Beaverton Area Chamber

MEGAN DE SALVO  
Tigard Area Chamber

BETTINA HANNIGAN  
Florence Area Chamber

TERRY HOPKINS  
Grants Pass & Josephine  
County Chamber

VONNIE MIKKELSEN  
Springfield Area  
Chamber

JOHN OLSON  
McMinnville Area  
Chamber

JIM PAINO  
Cannon Beach Chamber

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

On behalf of the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce (OSCC), we respectfully **oppose** HB 4134, which proposes a statewide increase in Oregon's transient lodging tax (TLT) to fund the "Recovering Oregon's Wildlife Fund" for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW).

The OSCC represents more than 80 chambers of commerce statewide, many of whom are also the Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) for their communities. Tourism supports small business, provides jobs and builds the tax base for local communities. By increasing the statewide tax from 1.5% to 2.75%, Oregon would be put at a competitive disadvantage, especially for rural communities that rely on tourism as a primary economic driver.

When Oregon's statewide TLT was created, the purpose was to reinvest those dollars back into tourism promotion and related efforts to grow the tourism sector of our economy. Doing so has resulted in the successful expansion of this industry in our state, creating jobs, small business growth opportunities, and strengthening local economies. HB 4134 would hurt this progress.

Because the TLT is added on top of local city and county taxes, rural communities have serious concerns about the cumulative impact of this tax increase on business and leisure travel. Statewide, this will also have a negative impact on our ability to compete for larger sporting events, group travel and conferences at a time when we are already seeing a decline in tourism.

There are two primary reasons OSCC opposes this bill:

1. HB 4134 will use up 1.25% of taxing "runway" that would otherwise be used for special or additional tourism campaigns.
2. HB 4134 will put tourism in constant and direct tension with wildlife programs, as both sides will have strong feelings – and potential veto authority - over future efforts to increase this tax for the other side.

We have a tourism program that works. Please don't use it for unrelated programs or complicate it with HB 4134. Let tourism dollars support tourism and keep the integrity of the system intact.

We ask you to vote "No" on HB 4134.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JL Wilson".

JL Wilson  
Legislative Counsel for OSCC