



## Oregon State Chamber of Commerce

February 4, 2026

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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 reason's 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 that reads "JL Wilson".

JL Wilson  
Legislative Counsel for OSCC