



Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

...our business is helping your business

Bay Area Chamber of Commerce

145 Central Ave
Coos Bay, OR 97420

February 4, 2026

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Reschke, Vice Chair Walters and Members of the House Committee on revenue,

For the record, my name is Rosey Thomas, Executive Director of the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, representing nearly 500 businesses across Coos Bay, North Bend, and Charleston on Oregon's South Coast.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding proposed changes impacting the transient lodging tax and tourism-related funding.

Tourism is not simply a visitor activity in our region it is a foundational economic driver that supports small businesses, generates family-wage jobs, and sustains critical revenue for rural communities. Lodging, restaurants, retail, recreation, and service providers all rely on a stable and strategic approach to tourism investment.

At the same time, we recognize that cities and counties face growing demands for public safety, infrastructure, and community services. These are not competing priorities they are interconnected components of healthy local economies.

We oppose HB 4134 to increase the tax structure on the statewide TLT. We are concerned that significant shifts in lodging tax structure could unintentionally weaken the very engine that drives economic activity in rural Oregon. Reducing long-term tourism investment may provide short-term relief but risks creating future budget pressures if visitor spending declines.

The Bay Area Chamber remains committed to working alongside legislators, local governments, and industry partners to support policies that strengthen rural economies while preserving the tools that make economic development possible. In Oregon we are overburdened on taxes as it is, a lot of local people would be affected, and this sort of increase can put local businesses out of the competitive edge of tourism attraction as well as cost our families staying at hotels and facilities here in Oregon as well. The cost is too high. We oppose HB 4134 respectfully.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of the business perspective.

Rosey Thomas

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