

Submitter: Kari Westlund  
On Behalf Of: self  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

The hotel industry approached the Oregon State Legislature more than 20 years ago to volunteer a statewide hotel tax to fund tourism promotion more fully and relieve the State general fund and/or video lottery of that responsibility. In return, industry asked for protection from diversion of lodging taxes to unrelated uses at the city and county level.

Now the State Legislature itself is going to increase the statewide hotel tax and divert it to an unrelated use? It is disappointing to see this kind of bill even considered.

HB 4134 breaks a promise to an industry sector that has partnered with the Oregon State Legislature and State of Oregon in good faith for more than two decades, raising and remitting hundreds of millions of dollars under the current Statute.

On top of completely breaking a successful partnership with the lodging industry, it seems counterproductive for legislators to even consider raising the lodging tax when one of the current stated top priorities of the State is economic development, bringing in new business and spending, and helping the business sector thrive.

I urge you to oppose HB4134.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.