

Submitter: Dhruti Patel
On Behalf Of: ALKO Hotels
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair, Vice Chairs, and Members of the House Revenue Committee,

My name is Dhruti Patel, and I am writing in opposition to HB 4134.

Oregon's lodging tax system works because it is intentional: visitor-generated dollars are reinvested into tourism promotion, which in turn drives demand for hotels, restaurants, attractions, and the thousands of workers who rely on those businesses. HB 4134 disrupts that system by diverting lodging tax revenue away from tourism promotion, weakening the very engine that generates those dollars in the first place.

Tourism promotion is not a discretionary expense—it is a proven economic driver. These funds directly support overnight stays, restaurant traffic, seasonal employment, and small businesses across urban and rural Oregon. When promotion is reduced, visitation declines, occupancy drops, and local economies feel the impact almost immediately.

Lodging taxes are paid primarily by visitors, not residents. Redirecting these funds away from their intended purpose undermines the promise made to the hospitality industry and to the communities that depend on tourism to sustain jobs and local tax bases.

At a time when the hospitality industry continues to recover from economic volatility, rising operating costs, and workforce shortages, now is not the time to destabilize a funding model that works. HB 4134 risks long-term economic harm for short-term reallocation.

I respectfully urge the committee to oppose HB 4134 and protect the integrity of Oregon's lodging tax structure so it can continue to support tourism, local businesses, and jobs statewide.

Thank you for your time and consideration.