

Submitter:

Jay Patel

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I respectfully oppose HB 4134, which proposes an increase to the state transient lodging tax and would place an undue burden on small, independent motels.

Independent motels in Portland already operate under challenging conditions, including high local lodging taxes and limited tourism growth. In Portland and Multnomah County, local transient lodging taxes are already approximately 11.5%, in addition to existing state taxes.

An increase under HB 4134 would further raise costs for travelers, suppress demand, and disproportionately harm smaller lodging businesses—particularly during a period of slow employment and travel recovery. Unlike national hotel chains, independent operators lack the scale and resources to absorb revenue losses or offset rising costs.

Furthermore, funding conservation and natural resource programs solely through lodging taxes unfairly targets one industry, despite these programs benefiting all Oregonians.

At the same time, motel owners continue to face rising insurance, labor, utility, maintenance, and regulatory expenses. For these reasons, I respectfully oppose HB 4134.