

Submitter: Hinal Patel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I strongly oppose HB 4134 and the proposed increase to the state transient lodging tax, which would significantly impact small, independent motels.

Portland's independent lodging businesses already operate with thin margins in a competitive environment. With local transient lodging taxes totaling approximately 11.5% in Portland and Multnomah County—on top of state taxes—any additional increase will directly raise prices for guests and reduce demand.

This proposal would place small independent motels at a clear disadvantage compared to national hotel brands that are better positioned to absorb costs or mask tax increases through complex fee structures. At a time when travel and employment recovery remain fragile, this added burden is especially harmful.

It is also inequitable to single out the lodging industry to fund conservation and natural resource initiatives that benefit the entire state. Motel owners are already contending with rising insurance premiums, labor costs, utilities, maintenance, and regulatory compliance. HB 4134 adds yet another financial strain, and for these reasons, I oppose it.