

Submitter:	Pete Patel
On Behalf Of:	Holiday Motel
Committee:	House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB4134

As a hotel owner in the Portland-Metro area, I am writing to voice my strong opposition to HB 4134. While the goal of wildlife conservation is noble, the method of funding it—by nearly doubling the state lodging tax—is a direct threat to the survival of my business and the local tourism economy.

Every dollar added to a guest's bill matters. Our industry is hyper-competitive, and consumers are more price-conscious than ever. If this bill passes, a family looking for a weekend getaway or a business traveler booking a week-long stay will look at the final "total charge" and see a significantly higher price tag in Oregon. For those of us operating near the border, the impact will be immediate: guests will simply cross the Columbia River and stay in Washington.

By making Oregon the more expensive option, you aren't just losing a "lodging tax"—you are losing the revenue from the dinners those guests would have eaten at our restaurants and the money they would have spent at our local shops. We should be finding ways to make Oregon more inviting, not driving our customers directly into the arms of our neighbors in Vancouver.