

Submitter:

Meena Patel

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I am writing as a small business owner in the hospitality sector to urge a "No" vote on HB 4134. My hotel is currently facing a "perfect storm" of rising costs: our property insurance premiums have skyrocketed, labor costs are at an all-time high, and the price of basic supplies—from linens to cleaning chemicals—continues to climb.

HB 4134 is fundamentally unfair. It singles out a single industry—hotels and short-term rentals—to shoulder the financial burden of a statewide public benefit. Wildlife and natural resource conservation benefit every single resident and business in Oregon, yet this bill asks only the hospitality sector to pay for it.

Why is the hotel industry being treated like an ATM for programs that have nothing to do with tourism? If wildlife recovery is a state priority, the funding should come from a broad-based source where the cost is shared by everyone. Singling out our industry, which is still struggling to reach pre-pandemic occupancy levels, is a discriminatory policy that ignores the reality of the thin margins we are currently operating on. We cannot afford to be the state's only "designated donor" for every new environmental initiative.