



THE RITZ-CARLTON

PORLAND

Feb 5th 2026

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my opposition to **House Bill 4134** and to highlight the continued challenges facing the hospitality industry in Portland and across Oregon.

Hospitality remains one of the **slowest-recovering sectors**, particularly in Portland. Hotels and restaurants continue to struggle with reduced visitation, higher operating costs, and ongoing perception and reputation challenges that affect travel decisions. Current **occupancy projections for 2025 and 2026 remain sluggish**, with **no major new demand generators** anticipated in the city to meaningfully accelerate recovery until 2028.

Imposing an additional tax on visitors, as proposed in House Bill 4134, risks further undermining recovery efforts. Meeting planners, group bookers, and leisure travelers are highly price-sensitive and have many alternatives. Additional visitor taxes give them yet another reason to select other destinations.

At a time when Portland is actively working to rebuild its image and competitiveness, we should not set new policies that deter business and visitation — outcomes that ultimately weaken employment and long-term economic growth. I would urge you to support proposals that spur development, economic recovery and attract visitation through conferences, business, and leisure travel.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose House Bill 4134** being mindful of its impact on an industry that is still in recovery and vital to Oregon's economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marie Browne
General Manager
The Ritz-Carlton, Portland