

Submitter: Saajan Chauhan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

To whom it concerns,

On behalf of the Union County Chamber of Commerce and as the DMO of Union County, I am writing to share our concerns regarding House Bill 4134 and its proposed increase to the statewide Transient Lodging Tax.

We recognize and deeply value the importance of protecting Oregon's wildlife habitat and supporting ranchers through responsible wolf management and conservation efforts. These priorities are vital to the long-term health of our state and our rural communities.

However, we strongly believe that these important initiatives deserve a comprehensive, statewide funding solution—one that reflects shared responsibility across industries and communities. Singling out the tourism and hospitality sector to carry this burden places an unfair strain on businesses that are still working to recover and remain competitive.

Eastern Oregon's tourism industry plays a critical role in supporting local economies, creating jobs, and complementing our strong agricultural sector. Our region generates a significant portion of the state's agricultural output, and tourism helps sustain many small businesses that serve both residents and visitors.

We support advocating for a more equitable and collaborative approach to funding these statewide priorities. We respectfully urge you to consider alternatives that distribute responsibility fairly and allow all sectors to contribute to solutions that benefit Oregon as a whole.

The Union County Chamber of Commerce is committed to working with lawmakers, industry partners, and community leaders to develop balanced policies that protect our natural resources while also supporting economic vitality in rural Oregon.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your continued commitment to Eastern Oregon. Please feel free to reach out if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,
Saajan Chauhan
Executive Director
Union County Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Information Center