

Submitter: Gordon Feighner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Gordon Feighner and I am co-owner with my wife, Katie Prevost, of Jam on Hawthorne, a breakfast restaurant in SE Portland. I also serve as Secretary of the Board of the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association. I urge you to vote NO on HB 4134 and to not increase the state transient lodging tax. Raising the statewide lodging tax poses risks to Oregon's competitiveness in the travel and tourism sector. Visitors weigh overall costs when selecting destinations and business meeting planners make a point to compare tax liabilities associated with locating their event(s) in a specific state. Higher lodging taxes will impact our goals of bringing back group business in Oregon to pre-pandemic levels.

Our restaurant is located in a popular tourist corridor; during summer months we enjoy trying to count the number of states and countries we receive visitors from. The last few years those numbers have been decreasing in both variety and quantity. Tourism in Oregon, and Portland in particular, has been struggling for years due to the public relations hit our city took during 2020-21. Now is not the time to raise taxes in any way, shape, or form, especially taxes that would discourage visitors from coming and spending money in our city and state. I am all for providing funding for ODFW, but not at the expense of our state's hospitality industry. Please vote NO on HB 4134.