



Date: February 6, 2026

Name: Ezra Hart, Holiday Inn Express Corvallis On the River

Bill Number and Committee: HB 4134 – Testimony to the House Committee on Revenue in Opposition

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters, and members of the House Committee on Revenue:

My name is Ezra Hart, and I am the General Manager of the Holiday Inn Express Corvallis On the River. I appreciate the opportunity to convey my opposition to HB 4134.

At the Holiday Inn Express Corvallis, we have the privilege of welcoming guests to Corvallis, Oregon, from a wide range of locations and for a multitude of reasons. Our team is committed to providing caring and personal hospitality that supports each guest's time in our city. Whether visitors arrive for business, to see loved ones, attend events at Oregon State University, or simply pass through, lodging properties like ours play an active and essential role in attracting and sustaining tourism in the Corvallis area.

We recognize that increased visitation can create challenges for communities, particularly related to infrastructure, resources, and public lands. At the same time, we see firsthand the tremendous value tourism brings, fueling local businesses, supporting jobs, and contributing to the vibrancy and resilience of our community. Tourism is not an abstract concept; it is a tangible economic engine that benefits workers, families, and small businesses throughout our region.

I operate a business that depends on a healthy economy, and tourism directly supports jobs and livelihoods where I live. While Oregon's tourism industry has shown overall growth in recent years, with record visitor spending and supporting tens of thousands of jobs, many local economies are still in the process of stabilizing after the disruptions of COVID-19. Increasing the state Transient Lodging Tax at this time would undermine recovery efforts and threaten the progress communities and businesses have worked so hard to achieve.

Today's travelers are more cost-conscious than ever, even as lodging businesses face steadily rising operating expenses related to labor, insurance, utilities, and supplies. Because the lodging tax is a cost borne entirely by our guests, further increases risk reducing demand and lowering occupancy. A decline in occupancy directly impacts our ability to retain employees, create new jobs, and sustain family-wage employment in our communities.

Our guests keep our doors open and enable us to support our staff. When tourism slows, it is local workers and families who feel the consequences first. Communities across Oregon rely on a healthy tourism sector to keep small businesses operating, to provide stable employment, and to help ensure that basic needs like housing, food, and utilities, can be met.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 4134. Increasing the state Transient Lodging Tax would jeopardize the hard-won recovery of Oregon's tourism industry and place an undue financial burden on the workers, families, and communities that depend on it. I urge you to support policies that strengthen, not undermine, Oregon's long-term economic vitality. Thank you for your time, your consideration, and for the work you do to support Oregon's communities, businesses, and families.

Ezra Hart

General Manager

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