

Submitter: rob lee

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Members of the Committee,

As a local business owner, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding HB 4134. While I share the state's commitment to wildlife conservation, I must oppose this bill as it directly threatens my business and thousands of other lodging operators across the state. Our industry is currently facing a "perfect storm" of financial pressures. In recent years, our annual renewals for essential services, labor costs, and overall operating expenses have increased so significantly. Adding a statewide tax increase now is unsustainable for small operators.

Specifically, I urge you to consider these impacts:

Loss of Competitiveness: With local taxes already reaching 16% in some areas, this hike makes Oregon one of the most expensive destinations on the West Coast, driving travelers to neighboring states.

A "Vacation Tax" on Oregonians: Roughly 30-40% of our guests are fellow Oregonians traveling for family, youth sports, or work. This tax makes a simple getaway unaffordable for local families.

Disproportionate Burden: Unlike large national chains, small family-owned businesses do not have the margins to absorb price hikes or the resulting drop in occupancy.

Diversion of Funds: Lodging taxes were designed for tourism and economic development. Using them to fund general conservation programs—which should be supported by the General Fund—sets a dangerous precedent for our industry.

There are more equitable ways to fund conservation that do not place the entire burden on one sensitive industry already struggling with rising costs. Please protect Oregon's small businesses and vote NO on HB 4134.

Sincerely,

Rob Lee

VIP Hospitality Group