

Submitter: Patrick Nofield

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I am writing on behalf of Escape Lodging Company to express our strong concerns regarding HB 4134 for our 16 properties and 600+ Oregon based employees.

Our average current transient lodging tax stands at 14%.

The proposed statewide lodging tax outlined in Measure HB 4134 would increase this rate to 15.25%, making it one of the highest on the West Coast.

For an average three-night stay in Cannon Beach, guests would pay nearly \$200 in transient lodging taxes—an amount equivalent to three or four dining experiences that could otherwise support our local restaurants.

Anecdotally, many potential guests are beginning to ask what their total rate would be inclusive of the transient lodging tax. When they hear \$1400 for a 3 night stay they often times make alternative arrangements.

We are deeply concerned that such an increase risks making our destination less competitive, potentially harming the local economy

Additionally, the rationale for this additional tax increase—to support the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife—does not provide a direct benefit to our community and tourism sector.

We respectfully urge you to vote no on HB 4134 to prevent further negative impacts on Oregon's already struggling economy.

Thank you for your consideration.