

Submitter: KRYSTAL BUTTERWORTH

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

We write today as the owners and management of three hotels operating in the State of Oregon, speaking not only for our businesses, but for our employees, our guests, and the local communities that depend on tourism to survive.

Our properties include:

Best Western Plus Hartford Lodge

SureStay by Best Western Roseburg

SureStay Plus by Best Western Gold Beach

We strongly and unequivocally oppose HB 4134 and any proposal to increase the statewide Transient Lodging Tax.

At a time when hotel occupancy is declining, operating costs are rising, and the broader U.S. economy is placing unprecedented pressure on working families, this proposed tax increase is deeply concerning and counterproductive. Our industry is still recovering—revenue is down, margins are thin, and day-to-day operations are becoming increasingly difficult to sustain. Many of our teammates are already struggling to make ends meet, and this bill would only worsen that reality.

An increase in lodging taxes does not impact corporations alone—it directly harms frontline workers. Housekeepers, front desk agents, maintenance teams, and managers depend on stable occupancy and competitive pricing to maintain their hours, wages, and benefits. Raising lodging taxes makes Oregon less competitive as a destination, discourages travel, and ultimately leads to reduced bookings, reduced hours, and lost jobs.

We are proud to operate responsibly, pay our fair share, and contribute meaningfully to our local economies. However, continually balancing state budget needs on the backs of tourism and hospitality workers is not sustainable. This proposal places additional strain on small and mid-sized hotel operators who are already navigating inflation, rising labor costs, insurance increases, utilities, and mounting regulatory burdens.

Simply put: this bill will not help working people—it will hurt them.

We respectfully urge you to listen to the voices of employers and employees who are on the ground every day, experiencing these challenges firsthand. We ask that you vote NO on HB 4134 and reject any lodging tax increases during the 2026 Legislative Session.

Oregon's hospitality industry is a vital economic engine. Please do not undermine its recovery or jeopardize tourism jobs across our state.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to the people of Oregon.

Respectfully,

Krystal Butterworth  
On behalf of Ownership & Management  
Best Western Plus Hartford Lodge  
SureStay by Best Western Roseburg  
SureStay Plus by Best Western Gold Beach