

Submitter: Ankit Mungra

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ankit Mungra, and I am the owner of Motel 6 in Hermiston, Oregon. I am writing to respectfully oppose HB 4134, which proposes increasing the state transient lodging tax.

As a small business owner operating in Eastern Oregon, I can tell you that our industry is extremely price-sensitive. Lodging taxes are not absorbed by the business — they are paid directly by the customer. When the total tax burden increases, the final room rate increases, and that directly impacts traveler decisions.

Hermiston is not a major tourist destination like Portland or the Oregon Coast. Much of our business comes from construction crews, agricultural workers, traveling nurses, families visiting relatives, and travelers passing through on I-84. These guests are highly cost-conscious. Even small increases in nightly rates can push them to seek alternatives in neighboring states such as Washington or Idaho, or to choose short-term rentals instead of regulated hotels.

Our operating costs have already increased significantly over the past few years — utilities, insurance, labor, property taxes, and supplies have all risen sharply. Unlike larger corporate operators, small property owners have limited ability to absorb additional economic pressure.

Increasing the transient lodging tax may generate revenue in the short term, but it risks long-term consequences:

Reduced occupancy in rural and Eastern Oregon markets

Competitive disadvantage compared to neighboring states

Fewer jobs and reduced local economic activity

Harm to small, locally owned properties

Hospitality businesses are still stabilizing after the severe impacts of the pandemic.

Now is not the time to increase the tax burden on an industry that supports local employment and community economic activity.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB 4134.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ankit Mungra

Owner, Motel 6

Hermiston, Oregon