

Submitter: Vonnie Mikkelsen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, I urge you to show your support for small local businesses and our hospitality industry workforce by voting No on HB4134.

Raising the cost of lodging by increasing the statewide Transient Lodging Tax, effectively increases the cost of travel - for Oregonians and for visitors outside of Oregon - and in turn places additional strain on Oregon's hospitality and tourism sector. This industry remains HIGHLY sensitive to price competitiveness and economic cycles. As lodging taxes increase, the total cost of staying in a destination rises, making it harder for Oregon communities to compete for visitors, events, and group travel that compare destinations based on overall affordability.

In communities like Springfield and Eugene, the impacts of higher lodging costs extend well beyond hotels and visitors. Overnight visitors support local restaurants, retailers, event venues, and seasonal employment, particularly in downtown and visitor-friendly areas. Even modest increases in lodging costs can influence travel decisions, shorten stays, or shift visitors to neighboring destinations, reducing the local economic activity many small businesses depend on.

It is also important to view HB 4134 in context. This proposal is not a one-time increase in isolation. It would further raise the cumulative lodging tax rate across our state, pushing our community into a higher tax bracket relative to competing destinations. That positioning matters directly to our ability to attract sporting events, conferences, meetings, and other group travel that generates significant economic activity.

When legislators tout support for Oregon business and economic growth, but vote for increasing the cost of doing business, small businesses and their partner organizations lose trust and confidence when it's most needed.

Show you care and seek to build trust and confidence from small business operators and Vote No on HB 4134.

Respectfully,

Vonnie Mikkelsen
President and CEO

Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce