

Submitter: PRITI Patel
On Behalf Of: Rodeway Inn Medford
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Testimony in Strong Opposition to HB 4134

Submitted by: Priti Patel
Owner & General Manager, Rodeway Inn Medford
Medford, Oregon

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Priti Patel, and I own and operate Rodeway Inn Medford, a locally owned lodging business that has served Medford and the greater Southern Oregon region for many years. I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 4134.

Southern Oregon's lodging industry is not experiencing growth—it is struggling to survive. Medford and surrounding communities have seen a prolonged decline in tourism, reduced discretionary travel, and increasing competition from newly approved hotels, all while operating costs continue to rise sharply. Independent and small hotels in this region are operating on extremely thin margins, and many are still recovering from the financial losses of the past several years.

HB 4134 would disproportionately harm communities like Medford. Unlike larger metropolitan areas, Southern Oregon does not benefit from consistent high-volume tourism. Our lodging businesses rely heavily on seniors, medical travelers, construction and utility workers, families, and long-term guests seeking affordable accommodations. Increasing the financial burden on lodging directly impacts occupancy, pricing competitiveness, and the ability of hotels to remain viable.

Lodging taxes may appear incremental on paper, but in practice they affect real decisions—whether a traveler chooses Medford or bypasses our region entirely. Higher costs reduce demand, limit reinvestment, and ultimately threaten local jobs. For small hotels like mine, this means fewer resources to maintain properties, raise employee wages, and continue offering accessible, ground-level accommodations that many of our guests depend on.

Existing hotels in Medford have consistently contributed to the local economy—providing employment, supporting vendors, hosting essential travelers, and paying local taxes year after year. Yet we are being asked to absorb additional financial strain at a time when economic conditions in Southern Oregon remain fragile. Before imposing new burdens, the state should focus on protecting and sustaining the businesses that have already invested long-term in this region.

HB 4134 sends the wrong message to small lodging operators in Southern Oregon. It risks accelerating closures, reducing affordable lodging options, and weakening the

hospitality infrastructure that our community depends on. This bill does not reflect the economic reality on the ground in Medford.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 4134 and consider the disproportionate impact it will have on small, locally owned hotels in Southern Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Priti Patel
Owner & General Manager
Rodeway Inn Medford
Medford, Oregon