

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

Testimony in Opposition to HB 4134

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

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nimish Patel, and I, along with my wife Priti, own and operate Rodeway Inn Medford, a locally owned hotel that has proudly served Medford and the greater Southern Oregon region for many years. I am submitting this testimony to express our strong opposition to House Bill 4134.

The lodging industry in Southern Oregon is not in a position of growth—it is facing significant challenges. Medford and surrounding communities have experienced years of declining tourism, reduced discretionary travel, and heightened competition from newly approved hotels, all while operating costs continue to rise. Independent and small hotels, like ours, operate on very thin margins and are still working to recover from financial setbacks sustained over the past several years.

HB 4134 would place a disproportionate burden on communities like ours. Unlike larger cities, Southern Oregon does not benefit from high-volume, year-round tourism. Our hotels rely heavily on seniors, medical travelers, construction and utility crews, families, and long-term guests who need affordable accommodations. Increasing lodging costs directly affects occupancy, pricing competitiveness, and the ability of small hotels to survive.

While lodging taxes may seem minor on paper, they have real consequences for travel decisions. Higher costs can lead visitors to bypass Medford altogether. For small, locally owned hotels, this translates into fewer resources for property maintenance, employee wages, and the affordable, accessible lodging that our guests depend on.

Hotels in Medford have consistently contributed to the local economy through employment, vendor support, hosting essential travelers, and paying local taxes year after year. Yet, instead of receiving support, small operators are asked to absorb additional financial strain at a time when the regional economy remains fragile. Prioritizing the sustainability of existing businesses should come before introducing

new financial burdens.

HB 4134 threatens to accelerate closures, reduce affordable lodging options, and weaken the hospitality infrastructure that our community relies on. It does not reflect the economic realities faced by small hotels in Medford and throughout Southern Oregon.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Committee to oppose HB 4134 and carefully consider the impact it would have on locally owned hotels that are vital to our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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