

Submitter: Rajendra Patel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 4134

Submitted by: Rajendra Patel

Regarding: House Bill 4134

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to express my opposition to HB 4134, which proposes increasing Oregon's state transient lodging tax starting January 1, 2027. I support Oregon's natural resources and conservation efforts, but I don't think increasing lodging taxes is the best way to fund these priorities.

Oregon's visitors already face a complex and often high tax burden. Increasing the state transient lodging tax could make us less competitive, especially given current economic uncertainty. Tourism is vital to Oregon's economy, supporting small businesses, rural communities, and local governments. Higher prices could suppress demand, shorten stays, or drive visitors to other destinations.

The proposed "nature conservation fee" is still a mandatory tax increase. Visitors might see it as just another added cost, potentially harming Oregon's reputation as a welcoming destination.

I believe there are better ways to fund conservation efforts that don't rely so heavily on tourism. Let's explore alternative approaches that work for everyone.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Rajendra Patel