

Feb 26, 2026

OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 4134

I oppose the 1.5% tax increase in state transient lodging tax.

I support wildlife and their habitats. There is not a clear connection between overnight lodging guests who stay in short-term rentals and hotels with their impact on Oregon's wildlife. This is taxation without representation.

Halibut, Upland Birds, Marine Shellfish, Mountain Sheep, Antelope etc... I have no doubt these are wildlife in need of protection. The path to do so is not by increasing overnight lodging taxes. Not all overnight lodging guests are here for wildlife, therefore not all overnight guests should fund these endeavors, regardless of their worthiness.

The following beneficiaries have not demonstrated impact from overnight transient lodging guests necessitating a tax increase:

- Oregon's Wildlife Fund Subaccount State Fish & Wildlife Commission
- Department of State Police for efforts to combat wildlife poaching
- Wolf Management Compensation & Protective Trust Fund
- State Department of Fish & Wildlife
 - Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund
 - Wildlife connectivity efforts
 - Wildlife stewardship efforts
- State Department of Agriculture - Invasive Species Control
- Department of Justice anti-poaching & wildlife law enforcement

Lodging taxes are too often misused as a source of revenue unrelated to the impacts of transient lodging.

Please vote NO on increasing the state lodging tax.

Sincerely,
Hillary Gibson
Lake Oswego & Neskowin, Oregon