

February 25, 2026

Senator Anthony Broadman, Chair
Senator Mike McLane, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

RE: Salem Chamber Written Testimony in Opposition of HB 4134

Dear Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

Our organization represents over one thousand (1,000+) local businesses and forty-five thousand (45,000) employees in the Salem area. The breadth and diversity of industries represented by our membership demonstrate an intersection of the small businesses that collectively create our state economy. The Salem Chamber supports a healthy business climate, and healthy conservation of Oregon's wildlife, but opposes changing the objectives of the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) program.

Oregon's TLT program was designed to reinvest into our tourism promotion and destination development. This program has been successful in incentivizing visitor and tourism spending in our local economies, creating employment opportunities and increasing state revenue. In the Salem area alone, visitor spending generates \$782 million per year and supports 7,500 local jobs.

HB 4134 is poised to nearly double the TLT from the current 1.5% to 2.75% for funding Oregon Department of Wildlife (ODFW) and State Department of Agriculture, two state agencies that already have access to General Fund dollars, federal support, and license revenue. Additional new funding is allocated to the Department of State Police and Oregon Department of Justice for anti-poaching activities, while an important issue, should not take away from the successful TLT program.

An increase and redistribution of funds generated by the TLT would diminish the success of the program, making Oregon less competitive for tourism. This bill proposes a significant departure from the original objective of the TLT program by diverting increased funds for wildlife management. Redirecting TLT funds will likely have diminished returns as tourism promotion becomes underfunded hindering the very industry tasked as a new revenue stream. Please consider voting No on HB 4134 and protect the successful TLT program operating as it was intended.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Tom Hoffert, CEO Salem Area Chamber of Commerce

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State Farm Insurance

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Chief Executive Officer

Tom Hoffert
Salem Area Chamber of Commerce