

Submitter: Dragan Andrejic

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 4134 and the proposed increase in statewide lodging taxes.

As hospitality operators, we are deeply concerned about the direct impact this legislation will have on our team members and the broader tourism workforce. Increasing lodging taxes makes destinations like Portland less competitive for group and convention business — a segment that is critical to our success and to sustaining year-round employment.

When taxes rise, meeting planners and event organizers look to other cities that offer better overall value. If Portland becomes more expensive to book, groups will simply choose alternative destinations. Fewer groups mean fewer room nights, reduced banquet and restaurant revenue, and a significant decline in hours and opportunities for our employees.

The ripple effect is real. Less group business results in reduced staffing needs across departments — from housekeeping and front office to culinary, banquets, and event services. These are good jobs that support families, and they depend on a strong and competitive meetings and events market.

At a time when our industry is still working to rebuild, adding additional tax burdens risks slowing recovery, limiting hiring, and reducing income opportunities for the very workers this industry supports.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 4134 and protect the jobs, hours, and livelihoods of hospitality team members who rely on a healthy tourism economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.