



Serving Businesses in the North Plains Area Since 1986

503.647.2207
PO Box 152 North Plains, OR 97133
www.northplainschamberofcommerce.org

February 26, 2026

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Opposition to HB 4134 – Relating to the use of local transient tax revenue.

Dear Chairman Broadman, Vice-Chairman McLane, Members of Finance Committee

I am writing to express our strong opposition to House Bill 4134, which contains many flaws. Please consider the following and vote NO.

HB 4134 Hurts Jobs and Local Economies

HB 4134 raises taxes on Oregon's private sector and diverts dedicated tourism dollars away from economic development and job creation. The hospitality industry is still recovering, with employment nearly 14% below 2019 levels. Redirecting funds that are specifically designed to attract visitors and support local jobs moves Oregon in the wrong direction at the wrong time.

An \$11 Million Tax Increase on Oregonians

About 30% of the statewide transient lodging tax is paid by Oregonians traveling within the state. If HB 4134 passes, Oregonians will pay an additional \$11 million per year in lodging taxes — whether for family vacations, youth sports tournaments, business travel, or visiting loved ones. At a time when voters are increasingly sensitive to rising costs, this bill adds to the burden.

Tourism Investments Deliver Strong Returns

Oregon's \$40 million in statewide transient lodging tax investment generates approximately \$14 billion in economic activity — a return of roughly 350 to 1. Tourism dollars don't just support hotels and restaurants. Visitors spend at local retailers, grocery stores, gas stations, and state parks — sustaining jobs and small businesses across the state.

Weakens Oregon's Competitiveness

Large conventions, sporting events, and group meetings are highly competitive. HB 4134 increases lodging costs statewide, making Oregon less attractive compared to other destinations.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to oppose HB 4134 and protect the integrity of the Transient Lodging Tax. Let us ensure that this vital tool continues to drive economic growth, create jobs, and support local communities across Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,

NORTH PLAINS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Russ R. Sheldon,
President