

Submitter: Kristin Fintel
On Behalf Of: Chehalem Ridge Bed and Breakfast
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I am the owner and innkeeper of a 5-room B&B in the Willamette Valley. I have written before, during the regular session about my opposition to this bill, and to the House committee about my opposition to this bill. Once again, I would like to record my opposition, but I'll keep it short this time.

My business, now in its 18th year, relies on out-of-state travelers, with about 75% of my room nights coming from out of state. That business allows me to employ 2.5 FTE people and provide local businesses like shops, restaurants, and wineries with paying customers. We can do this successfully because we are supported by Travel Oregon and our RDMOs which are funded by the state Transient Lodging Tax. And so, I submit that the Transient Lodging Tax at 1.5% needs to stay at 1.5% and needs to stay in the usage that it is currently set for: to promote tourism.

While it is true that for my business, it would a tax paid mostly by non-Oregonians, this sets a bad precedent for taxes in Oregon. I can appreciate the struggle with funding for wildlife protection and programs, but searching for a random tax base that is relatively unassociated with the revenue usage is not a wise path to take. Please keep the TLT a straight line from lodging revenue to tourism marketing.

Kristin Fintel
Owner, Innkeeper
Chehalem Ridge Bed & Breakfast