



THE RITZ - CARLTON

PORTLAND

Feb 26th 2026

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 4134 and to outline the quantifiable impacts this proposal would have on the hospitality sector, our customers, and Oregon-based businesses.

Hospitality remains one of the slowest-recovering sectors in Portland. Hotels and restaurants continue to face reduced visitation, elevated operating costs, and ongoing perception challenges that directly influence travel and booking decisions. Occupancy projections for 2025 and 2026 remain below historical norms, with no major new demand generators anticipated to meaningfully accelerate recovery until at least 2028.

House Bill 4134 would compound these challenges by imposing additional costs on visitors at a time when price sensitivity is already high. Based on current operating data, the proposed tax would result in up to \$320,000 per year in incremental costs passed directly to our customers. Importantly, approximately 50% of our business originates from within Oregon, meaning an estimated \$160,000 annually would be borne by Oregon residents and Oregon-based businesses, including local companies hosting meetings, events, and conferences.

Meeting planners, group organizers, and leisure travelers closely evaluate total destination cost when making booking decisions. Even modest increases can materially influence site selection, particularly when competing destinations offer lower overall tax burdens. Additional visitor taxes therefore increase the risk of lost group business, reduced length of stay, and diminished ancillary spending—outcomes that negatively impact not only hotels, but also local restaurants, transportation providers, vendors, and hospitality workers.

As Portland works to restore competitiveness and rebuild visitation, policy decisions should be evaluated through the lens of measurable economic impact. Policies that increase the cost of doing business and traveling to Oregon risk slowing recovery, suppressing demand, and weakening long-term employment and economic growth.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 4134, with careful consideration of its documented financial impact on customers—particularly Oregon residents—and on an industry that remains in recovery and plays a critical role in Oregon's broader economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marie Browne

General Manager

The Ritz-Carlton, Portland