

Submitter: Ruth Swenson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I have had the pleasure of working in the hospitality field for over 30 years, and I truly believe in the positive impact that tourism can have on our communities. While some may feel that tax increases are necessary to support environmental initiatives, it's important to consider how these changes can affect hardworking individuals on the front lines of the hospitality industry.

Many guests come to Oregon expecting a cost-effective getaway, especially since our state proudly promotes no sales tax. When they encounter a new tax upon their arrival, it can lead to surprises that might sway their decision about staying in our beautiful state. This is particularly crucial in places like Seaside, where tourism is the lifeblood of our local economy.

Fewer visitors can result in challenges for employees, local shops, and restaurants, as reduced spending might limit their ability to thrive. It's essential to remember that our hospitality professionals are dedicated to creating unforgettable memories and experiences for every guest. When tourism declines, it impacts not only their livelihoods but also the vibrant atmosphere that makes our destination so special.

Let's work together to create solutions that can promote both environmental sustainability and economic vitality. By keeping tourism thriving, we can ensure that our communities remain vibrant and welcoming for both visitors and residents alike. I invite you to consider the heartfelt stories of those who are committed to making every vacation a memorable one, all while striving to provide for their families.

With appreciate for your time, please do not vote yes on HB 4134.

Best regards,  
Ruth Swenson