

Submitter: Matt Buschert
On Behalf Of: Lodging Operators
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I oppose HB 4134. It is a spectacularly bad idea to dilute TLT with non-tourist related uses. It sets a very dangerous precedence to tax and spend TLT dollars without any control. The City of Cannon Beach and Clatsop county are already guilty of increasing TLT without any input from voters and residents. In the case of Cannon Beach, the city was sued to stop spending TLT dollars on a project the voters ultimately rejected when finally given a chance to vote.

HB 4134 raises funds for some vague purpose without any control.

If the legislature approves this funding scheme, what is to stop continuing this misguided funding vehicle in the future for any pet project?

It may be sold as only collecting dollars from tourists, but continuing increases in TLT only makes the Oregon lodging industry less competitive by increasing room rates.

And how is this to be implemented? Clatsop County in raising TLT to fund a jail, made the increased TLT retroactive. The county was totally clueless on how the lodging industry works. If this TLT increase is approved, hopefully the State will be wiser in implementation.