

Submitter: Stephanie Anderson Stroup

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Greetings. I own lodging operations in Bend and Joseph. Beyond my concerns for my personal businesses, I am concerned about what a lodging tax increase will do to tourism in two highly touristed towns. Data shows us that an increase in lodging taxes lead to a decrease in overnight stays and decrease in overall visitor spending. I live (split my time) in both Joseph and Bend, run my business in both, and employ people in both places. And, I am an enormous proponent for wildlife and environmental restoration. So, with that being said, I am forced to choose between two things I care deeply about.

I oppose this tax and ask you to do the same. What it came down to me was appropriate use of funds. TLT dollars should be spent as intended--on maintaining and/or increasing tourism in our state. Tourism is a major pillar of Oregon's economy, and we cannot afford to let that crumble now. Money to support environmental causes needs to come from a more appropriate source. This is a reach.

Please vote NO on 4134. Thank you, Cheers
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