

Good afternoon Chair Broadman, Vice Chair McLane, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Michael Schneider, and I am the General Manager of the Inn at Spanish Head Resort Hotel, located along the coast in Lincoln City.

A thriving environment is critical to the success of the Inn at Spanish Head.

Since our opening in 1969, our guests have come back year-after-year for a one-of-a-kind experience only coastal Oregon can offer.

Our guests love our beautiful beach and the fantastic restaurants at our resort.
Our guests love to visit Lincoln City and all its amazing restaurants and shops.
Our guests also cherish the opportunity to experience the Oregon Coast, see the whales traveling seasonally up and down the shoreline, all in view of our hotel.

Overall, we know our visitors come from all over the world to experience the ocean, see the wildlife, and visit all the amazing sights, shops, and restaurants along the Coast.

But to keep visitors coming to the coast, I believe we must reinvest in what makes Oregon so special and that's why I am testifying in support of HB 4134

This common-sense bill would provide sustained funding for wildlife programs, an invasive species response program, among several others, all of which are directly tied to why people come to Oregon

I have heard that opponents to this bill believe this small increase, in our already low state transient lodging tax, will drive tourists away.

I respectfully disagree. In fact, I believe many visitors will be more than happy to pay a small increase to help preserve what they have come to love: our coastal environment. Especially as this bill requires us to note this on their bill as a "nature conservation fee."

I have also heard opponents mention that this is not a clean passthrough tax.

I respectfully disagree. As the general manager, I can speak to the fact that our recent increase of Lincoln City's lodging tax in 2023 by an additional 2.5% did not affect total direct travel spending in the County.

Overall, and separate from my earlier points, I think collectors of the lodging tax should be excited about this bill as we'll all end up collecting a larger administrative fee for helping cover the costs of collecting the tax.

I believe this is a great bill and, as a manager of a coastal destination resort, I think it will end up attracting more visitors to the state.

I strongly encourage you to support it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.