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February 3, 2026

RE: Opposition to HB 4134 – Statewide Transient Lodging Tax Increase

Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 4134. The Springfield Chamber represents nearly 800 employers and organizations in Lane County. We support tax policies that promote economic growth, maintain competitiveness, and avoid disproportionate impacts on any single industry sector. Expanding the statewide Transient Lodging Tax runs counter to those principles and risks undermining the economic activity that sustains local businesses, and public revenues across the state.

HB 4134 would increase the statewide Transient Lodging Tax, raising costs for visitors and **placing additional strain on Oregon's hospitality and tourism sector**. This industry remains highly sensitive to price competitiveness and economic cycles. As lodging taxes increase, the total cost of staying in a destination rises, making it **harder for Oregon communities to compete for visitors, events, and group travel that compare destinations based on overall affordability**.

In communities like Springfield and Eugene, the impacts of higher lodging costs extend well beyond hotels. **Overnight visitors support local restaurants, retailers, event venues, and seasonal employment, particularly in downtown and visitor-oriented areas**. In Lane County, the visitor economy is a billion-dollar industry. **Even modest increases in lodging costs can influence travel decisions, shorten stays, or shift visitors to neighboring destinations, reducing the local economic activity many small businesses depend on**.

It is also important to view HB 4134 in context. This proposal is not a one-time increase in isolation. It would further raise the cumulative lodging tax rate in Lane County, pushing our community into a higher tax bracket relative to competing destinations. That positioning matters directly to our ability to attract sporting events, conferences, meetings, and other group travel that generates significant economic activity.

**For these reasons, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges the House Committee on Revenue to oppose HB 4134.** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Mikkelsen'.

Vonnie Mikkelsen

President and CEO, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce