

Submitter: Jitesh Patel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I am writing to express strong opposition to any proposal to raise Oregon's statewide transient lodging tax (currently 1.5%) and to redirect those additional funds to purposes unrelated to creating or promoting tourism.

The existing statewide lodging tax is specifically designed to fund tourism promotion through Travel Oregon, which directly benefits our industry by attracting visitors, supporting marketing efforts, and driving economic activity in hospitality. Redirecting increased tax revenues away from tourism promotion undermines the original intent of the tax and harms the very sector it was meant to support.

Oregon's tourism industry is already facing challenges, including competition from neighboring states with lower or more tourism-focused taxes, economic recovery pressures, and fluctuating visitor numbers. Raising the statewide lodging tax would make Oregon less competitive.