

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 4134
Submitted on behalf of The Orenco Station Hotel, Hillsboro, Oregon

Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 4134 and the proposed increase to Oregon's statewide Transient Lodging Tax.

The Orenco Station Hotel is a locally owned boutique hotel in Hillsboro that depends heavily on a healthy, competitive tourism economy. Like many hospitality businesses, we are still navigating rising labor costs, insurance premiums, utilities, and supply expenses while working to maintain living-wage jobs and affordable pricing for guests.

An additional 1.25% increase in the statewide lodging tax may appear modest on paper, but in practice it directly affects our ability to compete with neighboring states and alternative lodging options that are already under-regulated or taxed differently. Travelers are price-sensitive, especially leisure guests and small business travelers, and cumulative tax increases make Oregon a more difficult destination to sell.

Hospitality is a people-powered industry. Every reduction in demand has a real impact on front desk staff, housekeepers, maintenance teams, and local vendors who rely on consistent occupancy. When lodging becomes less affordable, the burden ultimately falls on workers and small businesses—not just visitors.

We strongly support Oregon's tourism economy and understand the importance of funding statewide priorities. However, we urge lawmakers to consider the timing and cumulative impact of this proposal on small and independent lodging operators who are still stabilizing post-pandemic.

We respectfully ask the committee to oppose HB 4134 or explore alternative solutions that do not place additional strain on tourism-dependent employers and workers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Richard Lyons and Margie Waltz, owners
The Orenco Station Hotel
Hillsboro, Oregon