



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1867		DATE: 1/28/2026	
COMMITTEE: Local Government			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CLIFFORD WERT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: GARY SHAW		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 2:23 PM	

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Because of family health challenges I am unable to appear in person, but I support Rep, Lane Roberts HB1867.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: M. SHARON CORNELL BESHORE		PHONE NUMBER: 417-437-1772	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: HARRY M. CORNELL ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 212 W. 7TH STREET			
CITY: JOPLIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64801
EMAIL: scbeshore@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 11:01 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Dear Chairman Hinman and Members of the Missouri House Local Government Committee,

On behalf of the Harry M. Cornell Arts & Entertainment Complex in Joplin, I write in strong support of House Bill 1867, which would allow the voters of Joplin, Missouri, the opportunity to consider an increase in local lodging tax dedicated to tourism-related capital projects.

This Bill is especially important because it focuses on capital projects that create long-term value. The restoration of Memorial Hall as the first project is a powerful example of how this funding can be used responsibly and strategically. Memorial Hall, a historic landmark in Downtown Joplin, was built in 1923 to honor veterans. It has the potential to serve as a regional destination for performing arts, civic gatherings, and conferences. Its restoration will preserve our heritage while driving new tourism activity and downtown investment.

When communities invest in cultural and civic facilities, the benefits ripple outward—supporting hotels, restaurants, retailers, and local jobs. These projects also strengthen community pride and improve quality of life, making Joplin more competitive as a destination and as a place to live and do business. It will be exciting to see what future tourism capital projects come Joplin’s way.

This lodging tax increase is a smart, sustainable investment in Joplin’s future and in the broader economic health of southwest Missouri. I respectfully urge you to support this measure and allow our community to move forward with projects that will generate lasting returns for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
 Sharon Cornell Beshore
 President
 Harry M. Cornell Arts& Entertainment Complex



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: MELODEE COLBERT KEAN		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ROBERT L. HARRINGTON		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 8:07 PM
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As Commander of the American Legion Post 13 in Joplin, I am in support of the increase in the Transient Guest Tax to help support the renovation of the 100 year old Memorial Hall, In Joplin. It has been the home of the American Legion since it was built with funds raised by the original members for Post 13.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVO		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 1/28/2026 11:12 PM	

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No, NO, NO New and More Taxes on Citizens. No Special Exception to increase the "Transient-Guest Taxes." If the Joplin Convention Center NEEDS to be Repaired and Renovation, pay for the costs for the City General Funds, Sell Bonds or pay with the City's Reserve Funds and NOT on the backs of visitors to Joplin. Enough is enough in having your hands out!



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHANDRA BUCKLEY		PHONE NUMBER: 417-781-0500	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LA QUINTA INN JOPLIN		TITLE: GENERAL MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 3320 S RANGELINE RD			
CITY: JOPLIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64804
EMAIL: 01362@bywyndham.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 3:31 PM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

I am opposed to raising the Hotel Motel Tax to fund the Memorial Hall Renovation Project. This particular project is questionable as to whether it will bring significant revenue to our hotel or to the other hotels in our market.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: GORDON ELLIOTT		PHONE NUMBER: 417-848-0901	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ELLIOTT LODGING		TITLE: OWNER OF ELLIOTT LODGING	
ADDRESS: 3512 S RANGELINE RD			
CITY: JOPLIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64804
EMAIL: gordon@elliottlodging.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/27/2026 3:25 PM	
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I am opposed to raising the Hotel Motel Tax to fund the Memorial Hall Renovation Project. The ROI on Memorial Hall is questionable. The majority of the hotels are against this project.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MIKE GRENINGER;DANCY SISCO		PHONE NUMBER: 417-438-6615	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: LAQUINTA INN JOPLIN;TOWNEPLACE SUITES JOPLIN; OTHERS LISTED ABOVE		TITLE: DIRECTOR OF SALES;GENERAL MANAGER	
ADDRESS: 4026 S ARIZONA AVE			
CITY: JOPLIN		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64804
EMAIL: lqsalesjoplin@outlook.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 3:02 PM	
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To Lane Roberts & Committee:

As proud members of Joplin's hospitality industry, the following hotels are committed to supporting initiatives that foster growth, enrich the community, and attract visitors to our city. While we understand the importance of maintaining and improving city landmarks, we feel compelled to express our concerns regarding the proposed 2% tax increase intended to fund the Memorial Hall Renovation Project.

As a business directly affected by the lodging tax policy, we believe it is crucial that any increase in taxes should directly benefit the local hospitality and tourism sectors. Our primary concern is that the renovations of Memorial Hall, as currently outlined, does not appear to have a clear or significant impact on attracting additional visitors to our area and increasing hotel occupancy. We are not opposed to the lodging tax increase itself, nor are we opposed to improving the recognition of veterans.

We respectfully request that the city officials consider alternative uses for the proposed increased tax revenue and implement further mechanisms for gathering input from those directly affected by tourism-related decisions, such as local hotels, restaurants, and attractions. This could include stakeholder surveys, public forums, or advisory committees to ensure that the voices of those impacted are heard and considered in future planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective. We look forward to working together to ensure that any future initiatives supported by lodging tax funds will truly enhance our city's appeal to visitors and benefit all stakeholders.

Sincerely,
 La Quinta Inn
 Townplace Suites
 Days Inn
 Quality Inn
 Drury Inn
 Budget Inn
 Economy Inn
 Super 7
 Microtel
 Plaza Motel
 Econo Lodge

Candlewood Suites
Best Western Oasis
Super 8



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 1/26/2026 11:37 AM	
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HB 1867 is a masterclass in taxation by technicality.

At first glance, it pretends to be about local flexibility. In reality, it expands and entrenches a patchwork tax scheme built on population thresholds, room counts, county classifications, and narrowly tailored carve-outs that only insiders can track.

This is not transparent taxation. It is legislative code-switching.

The bill authorizes new or higher transient guest taxes—up to six and seven percent per night—layered on top of existing state and local taxes, while routing the proceeds almost exclusively to unelected, nonprofit convention and visitors bureaus. These entities are not accountable to voters in the same way as public bodies, yet they become permanent recipients of compulsory public revenue.

While supporters will claim “voter approval” as a safeguard, the ballot questions authorized here are narrowly framed, siloed, and often presented without meaningful context about cumulative tax burden, downstream price impacts, or long-term obligations.

This is consent by ballot fine print, not informed choice.

**Transient guest taxes are not paid by corporations—they are paid by:
 working families attending funerals, graduations, or medical appointments,
 small business travelers,
 and rural Missourians priced out of nearby cities.**

HB 1867 shifts revenue generation away from broad-based, accountable taxation and toward targeted consumption taxes that disproportionately hit people with the least flexibility.

That runs counter to basic principles of tax fairness and uniformity embedded in Missouri’s constitutional structure.

Even more troubling, this bill continues the legislature’s habit of micro-targeted legislation—drafting statutes so specific that they apply to only a handful of jurisdictions, shielding the true policy choice from statewide scrutiny.

If tourism projects are worthy investments, they should compete openly in the public budgeting

process—not be guaranteed funding streams through ever-expanding niche taxes.

This bill does not simplify tax law.

It does not enhance accountability.

It does not protect taxpayers.

It normalizes permanent taxation for promotional spending, insulated from real oversight.

Missouri deserves clear laws, honest ballots, and taxes that are debated in daylight—not buried in population brackets.

Vote NO on HB 1867.

Another morning, another attempt to outsmart the Constitution.

-Rev. Sarah M. Berry