

Submitter:

Sharon Troxell

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I have worked as a volunteer for the Oregon State Parks Whale Watch team and have encountered numerous tourists who come to the coast to see whales traveling on their migration paths during the winter and spring months. Since I live in Bandon, I can attest to the fact that most of the families that are visiting the beach are from out of town. The hotels in town have much fewer vacancies, and the restaurants in the town are full. We get a lot of visitors year round from the golf course, but there are far more during the seasons when there is whale migration or seals having pups. Families are interested and curious to learn about these nature events which are new to them. I have seen firsthand how this slight surge in our town's guest spaces have positively impacted our own community while simultaneously creating a new appreciation for the natural wonders of our area in our visitors.