

Submitter:

AMY VALENTINE

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Amy Valentine, and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am an avid birder, hiker, and canoeist. I spend large amounts of time outdoors. I don't usually say I am passionate about anything, but I am passionate about protecting and supporting wildlife and the natural environment. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 with the amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

I am sure you have seen the Fact Sheet and Economic Analysis provided by the Bird Alliance of Oregon but I will reiterate - securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat protection is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. The funding would not only help wildlife and habitats, but also support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in these resources now will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities in the future.

It should go without saying that we cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. This legislation would ensure we have both. At a time when the federal government is slashing funds and dismantling policies that protect our vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats, Oregon has a chance to set an example and protect our natural heritage. Doing so would make Oregon a national leader.

Please support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134 today!

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