

Submitter:

Anthony Antoville

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

As an Oregonian who values our state's wildlife, and a father who wants future generations to be able to enjoy the diverse and special wildlife of our state, I support HB4134. At a time when federal protection of at-risk species is increasingly at risk, Oregon must step up to protect the wildlife of our state.

Currently, the Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) does not receive any dedicated funds from the state for the recovery and conservation of endangered and at-risk species and habitats. Increasing Oregon's statewide lodging tax, currently one of the lowest in the country, would provide a sustainable source of funds to ODFW to recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitat and enhance biodiversity - all of which contribute to Oregon's tourism and outdoor recreation economy while keeping the tax at still one of the lowest in the country.

Protecting Oregon's wildlife and habitats also bolsters Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports 192,000 jobs and \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in these resources now will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities in the future. Please support this legislation that would be a monumental win for Oregon's iconic fish, wildlife, and habitat! It is a landmark bill that would show other states how to build a bipartisan coalition of statewide legislators, organizations and citizens to protect our precious natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration- Anthony Antoville