

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Teddi Carbonneau and I live at 4246 SE Ogden Street, Portland, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

I own Oregon RFID, a company who sells equipment for environmental studies for fish and wildlife. We chose to use Oregon in our name because it is our home, and because Oregon is synonymous with beautiful forests and clean rivers and lakes. It helps us provide a picture of what we are helping to protect.

As an Oregonian born in the late 50's, I have seen Oregon change. I have seen clear cutting and watched old growth disappear. We have 10% of the old growth from when I was a child. We process forests now like a product, which means we will always have forests, but we will never have old growth again.

If we don't prioritize saving what we have left of working ecosystems, like the old growth, they will be gone. As defined: "an ecosystem is a dynamic, functional unit comprising a community of living organisms (factors like plants, animals, and microbes) interacting with their non-living, physical environment (factors like sunlight, water, soil, and air). These systems, which can range from small ponds to vast forests or oceans, are defined by complex energy flows and nutrient cycles". You cannot replace an ecosystem.

Oregon has one of the lowest state lodging taxes in the US. I realize that local municipalities add their own tax, but they can determine what their area can support. The state needs to take care of the broader environmental needs. It is the environment that brings people to Oregon. If we keep losing parts of what makes it work, Oregon will become a large tree farm devoid of life.

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

Teddi Carbonneau