

Submitter:

Chris Dodge

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

I am writing to you to share my strong support and enthusiasm for HB 4134 with the - 1 amendment, which would increase the state lodging tax by 1.25 percent to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats and provide a revenue stream for these efforts long term.

I think the vast majority of Oregonians support securing long-term, dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat protection - it's a big reason why we love this state! This investment would not only benefit fish and wildlife, it would also help the local communities and businesses that depend on Oregon's outdoor economy. Outdoor recreation and tourism support nearly 200,000 jobs statewide and generate about \$16 billion in consumer spending each year. Investing in the natural resources that draw people here seems like a no-brainer and a smart economic move for our future.

A strong tourism economy depends on healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and habitats. We cannot have one without the other, and this legislation helps ensure we protect both. At a time when federal funding and protections for wildlife and habitats are being gutted, Oregon has an opportunity to lead by example and safeguard our the things that make our state exceptional.

I urge you to support 1.25% for Wildlife by voting yes on HB 4134.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Chris Dodge (lifelong Oregonian)