

Submitter: Damian Fagan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Damian Fagan and I have lived in Oregon since 2004. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134, with the amendment to increase the state lodging tax on short-term rentals by 1.25%. These funds will supplement Oregon's efforts to restore some of its most valuable natural resources: fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Oregon is an incredibly special place, and our state's identity is closely tied to its rich natural heritage. I work part-time in the outdoor recreation field and part-time in the conservation of wildlife. People travel to or within Oregon often to visit the outdoors and engage with the natural world in a variety of ways, from consumptive uses such as hunting and fishing, to non-consumptive uses such as skiing, hiking, birdwatching, camping, and more. Oregon enjoys a robust outdoor recreation economy which supports thousands of jobs and brings in over \$1 billion annually. Maintaining or enhancing these resources will help this section of the economy to grow and to sustain the resources which attract people in the first place.

The current federal government is cutting funding and dismantling policies which protect people and wildlife and the habitats that support us all. These ill-advised cuts are contrary to maintaining a healthy outdoor recreation tourism economy. Oregon has the opportunity to raise the standards for protecting not only our state's natural heritage, but also the thriving economy that is built upon that heritage.

I urge you to pass HB 4134 during this current legislative session with a bill that allows this short-term lodging industry to pony up for the fish, wildlife, and wildlands that are the foundation of this sector of the state's economy.

Thank you,

Damian Fagan
Bend, OR