

Submitter: Erik Horeis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Chair Nathanson and House Committee on Revenue members:

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.

In Oregon, our identity is closely tied to the natural wonders of our state and our rich array of wildlife, from whales and sea stars on the coast, to rivers rich with salmon and steelhead, to alpine valleys that are home to bears, marmots, and martens, to high desert shrub steppe where sage-grouse, mule deer, and antelope live.

Oregonians' love of the outdoors is well known statewide and nationwide, and securing long-term, dedicated funding to recover our most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians.

I also urge you to support this landmark bill, which would provide long-term funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. This is critical to our state's tourism economy, which supports 192,000 jobs and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending.

Our thriving outdoor tourism economy would suffer without healthy and abundant fish and wildlife populations. Investing in wildlife and habitat conservation projects will generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities now and well into the future.

As the federal government dismantles policies that protect vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats and slashes funding, Oregon can set a better example by protecting our natural heritage.

This bill is your once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect the rich biodiversity that makes Oregon an incredible place to live and to visit.

Please pass HB 4134 -1 this legislative session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erik Horeis