

Submitter: Madison Montgomery
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Madison and I live in Bend, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134, which would increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. Oregon's identity is deeply rooted in its rich natural heritage, and Oregonians like me are proud of our natural heritage and want to see it thrive for future generations.

Long-term, dedicated funding to recover our most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. I urge you to support this landmark bill, which would secure stable funding for these critical resources—resources that are also essential to Oregon's tourism economy. Our robust outdoor tourism sector accounts for 2.6% of the state's GDP, supports 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending annually. Investing in these natural assets today will continue to create economic opportunities for communities across Oregon well into the future.

We cannot sustain a thriving tourism economy without healthy fish, wildlife, and habitats. HB 4134 ensures we can have both. At a time when the federal government is slashing funding and rolling back protections for vulnerable species and ecosystems, Oregon has the opportunity to lead by example and safeguard our natural heritage.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect the biodiversity and natural beauty that make our state so extraordinary. Please pass HB 4134-1 this legislative session.

Thank you,
Madison M.
Bend, Oregon