

Submitter: Scott Penzarella

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Esteemed House Committee On Revenue,

I have been a small business owner for over 30 years, starting and managing and ultimately selling 7 businesses during this time. In each and every business, from bike tour operation to small, boutique hotels and super markets, a business' brand position has always been what has made a business venture successful. Recently, I updated and then sold a hotel in Sisters, Oregon, where over the course of 4 years, unpredictable and chaotic weather (from extreme heat and fire to smoke and severe wind events, from lack of snow or major rain events through much of the winter season) has changed business significantly. How is a town of Sisters suppose to rely on 4 major events to thrive; it can't especially when those pinnacle events are also been cancelled or significantly affected by extreme weather. That being said, despite the weather, bird watchers, hunters, fish enthusiasts, among others, come year round to witness or enjoy some form of wildlife. It is the one archetype unaffected by weather. Unlike skiing or mountain biking, both of which are hampered or impossible to do based on the three ever-changing weather conditions, wildlife viewing is a boom for tourism. The large hotel chains will tell you that this small tax will reduce tourism but they clearly can't see the forest from the trees. Wildlife viewing/tourism is by far and away a savior for small communities like Sisters. You don't have to look very far to see how big wildlife tourism can be, from Yellowstone National Park to Patagonia, Chile, from Africa to the coastline waters of our very own state where whale watching is a huge (yet dying) economy. We just support wildlife, and the many small businesses that benefit from them. thank you.