

Submitter: Rebecca Steffoff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

I am writing to tell you why I hope you will strongly support this bill, which would add a small percentage to the lodging tax in our state but mean the world to our wildlife.

I love living in Oregon, traveling around the state, and showing it off to visitors. A huge part of that pleasure and passion comes from our rich and varied wildlife. In the past year alone, I've marveled at the teeming life in the tidepools at Yaquina Head, been surprised and amazed by pronghorn antelope and a golden eagle on Hart Mountain, and watched ground squirrels forage atop Mt. Howard in the far northeast corner of the state. I'm grateful for our state's wildlife and hopeful that it will survive--not just for the pleasure of future generations but because wildlife has an innate right to exist for its own sake, and as part of the web of landscapes and ecosystems that sustain us.

At a time when climate change, ever-encroaching development, habitat loss, and the gutting of federal funding for our public lands are putting wildlife under increasing pressure, I hope that we Oregonians will step up our efforts to bolster struggling species, recover and preserve the habitats they need to live, and support our state's biodiversity. I would gladly pay an extra 1.25 percent for lodging to help wildlife in other states, and I sure as heck will pay it here, to help ODFW help our state's wildlife, from butterflies to bears.

Please support HB 4134. Thank you for your time and attention.

Rebecca Steffoff
Portland, Oregon