

Submitter:

Cindy Perry

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

My name is Cindy Perry and I live in Tigard Oregon. 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.

HB 4134 is historic legislation that would protect our wildlife, safeguard communities, and strengthen our tourism economy that depends on a healthy environment, without increasing my cost of living.

This legislation protects wildlife and human health. The health of people and our environment is inextricably linked. Keeping nature healthy keeps people healthy. Research has found that being out in nature improves human health. I have found that hiking and camping in the natural areas of Oregon has had a positive impact on my health. Projects funded by this legislation will help protect and clean drinking water, support wild pollinators that are essential to our food and natural systems, and maintain species like bats that help control insect populations. Farmers need pollinators; therefore, these investments help our farmers.

Furthermore, Outdoor recreation is a \$16 billion industry in Oregon. We can keep that industry growing and thriving by investing in the wildlife and natural spaces that attract visitors, all while still keeping Oregon's statewide lodging tax one of the lowest in the nation.