

Submitter:

M Mealy

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Dear Chair Nathanson and Committee members,

I am writing in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment, which would increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to provide much-needed, dedicated funding for the recovery of Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Oregon's landscapes and wildlife are at the heart of what makes this state extraordinary. Like many Oregonians, I value these resources not only for what they offer us today, but for what they represent for future generations. We have a shared responsibility to ensure that Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitats are protected and restored so they can endure. It make sense to use this revenue source because many people come to see the fish, wildlife, and habitats this state currently enjoys. By investing in conservation, this bill also strengthens Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism economy, which accounts for 2.6% of the state's GDP, supports 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending. Protecting the natural resources that draw visitors to Oregon is a smart economic investment in our communities.

This is a rare opportunity to make a lasting investment in Oregon's biodiversity and natural legacy. I respectfully urge you to support and pass HB 4134 with the -1 amendment this legislative session.

Sincerely,  
M Mealy