

Submitter: Krista Reynolds

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Krista Reynolds and I live in West Linn, 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.

As a lifelong Oregonian, I have always felt a strong connection to our beautiful wild areas and wildlife. Having these natural areas with native species is one of the big reasons I continue to live here and spend most of my free time (and money!) exploring around the state, from Malheur NWR to the Oregon coast.

Securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitats protection is strongly supported by a majority of my fellow Oregonians. The funding would not only help wildlife and habitats, but also support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending.

As someone who ran an Airbnb out of our home for several years, I talked with many of our guests about why they were visiting Oregon. Many planned to visit our amazing natural areas and hoped to see gray whales, tufted puffins, elk, salmon, and more. They came specifically to enjoy these areas and wildlife.

We cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. This legislation would ensure we have both. At a time when the federal government is slashing funds and dismantling policies that protect our vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats, Oregon has a chance to set an example and protect our natural heritage. Doing so would make Oregon a national leader.

Please support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134 today.