

Submitter: Elaine Rybak

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Elaine Rybak and I live in Portland, Oregon. I strongly support of HB 4134 which would increase the state lodging tax by 1.25%. Funds generated by this bill would be used to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Please support this landmark bill, which would dedicate long-term funding to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife and habitats - all of which are critical for our state's tourism economy.

Funds generated by this tax would also help to fund the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) Control Account (also known as the Emergency Control Account). This would be the first time ever, the account would have a stable, continuous funding source (previously it had a startup amount and a one-time legislative addition of funds). This would better position the OISC to support emergency response efforts, such as addressing an invasive mussel introduction and to boost early eradication and control efforts when invasive species first appear in the state. It can make the difference between invasive species establishment or eradication. It is the most cost effective way to use limited funds

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect our natural legacy and rich biodiversity. Please pass HB 4134 this legislative session!

Thank you for your service in our State Legislature. I know your job is challenging and I want you to know your work is appreciated.