

Submitter:

Gabriela Hernandez

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Chair Nathanson and committee members,

I support 1.25% for wildlife because I care about the biodiversity of the state I've lived in for my entire life. As a college student here in Oregon, I often hear from out-of-state peers that they chose an Oregon university because of our beautiful outdoors and sprawling scenic views. If we do not invest in our wildlife, there will be no point for tourism in Oregon, and no draw for these out-of-state Oregon admirers. Even as an Oregon resident from birth, I cherish winter trips to Grants Pass or Mount Hood, and summer trips to our beautiful waterfalls (Sahalie Falls, Salt Creek Falls, among many others) and the Oregon Coast. I also enjoy camping in the wilderness of Sunriver and visiting our natural hot springs. As a resident from birth and frequent traveller throughout Oregon, I worry about the legacy of our awesome Oregon wildlife. If we do not increasing our funding for wildlife and wild spaces, we do not just endanger animals and ecosystems, but also ourselves and the economic future of all Oregonians—not protecting our wildlife will impede on our tourism revenue in the future. Many states have higher lodging taxes: Oregon can too. As I mentioned, my family and I commonly travel throughout Oregon, even as Oregon residents. Even my middle class family, and myself (a struggling college student) would gladly pay more for Oregon travel in order to support Oregon wildlife and more largely, Oregon's natural future.

Thank you for your consideration.