

Submitter: Maria Escobar

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Hello, my name is Maria Escobar and I am a constituent of Portland. I strongly support wildlife conservation, habitat restoration, and wildfire risk reduction in Oregon. These are vital priorities that benefit our communities, ecosystems, and future generations.

However, I respectfully oppose HB 4134 because it relies on increasing the statewide transient lodging tax to fund these goals. This approach may disproportionately impact vulnerable communities, including low-wage workers, immigrants, and people of color employed in tourism and hospitality, as well as small lodging businesses that operate on thin margins. Higher lodging costs can also reduce access to travel and outdoor recreation for lower-income families.

Conservation funding should be sustainable, equitable, and broadly shared. I encourage the Legislature to explore alternative funding mechanisms that support wildlife and wildfire resilience without placing a disproportionate burden on a single industry or vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your consideration