

Submitter:

FL Williams

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I am Ferrol Williams, a resident of Bend, OR and am writing in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25%. I believe this revenue will help Oregon recover its most vulnerable natural beauty. I moved to Central Oregon because of the diversity of what makes it special - the native fish, wildlife, and habitats—including the high desert and sagebrush steppe. I am a volunteer at many organizations that help to preserve this fragile ecosystem. I, and many others, care deeply about protecting it for future generations with dedicated funding to recover and sustain this special habitat.

HB 4134 would secure sustainable funding to help recover Oregon's most at-risk species and habitats, including sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient landscapes that support biodiversity statewide.

Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism economy depends on healthy lands and waters. The outdoor economy contributes 2.6% of Oregon's GDP, supports 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending. Protecting fish, wildlife, and habitats is not separate from economic vitality—it is foundational to it. Investing in conservation now supports local communities and long-term economic resilience. As federal funding and protections for wildlife and habitats are reduced, Oregon has an opportunity—and a responsibility—to step forward and invest in its natural legacy. By passing this bill, Oregon can set an example for how states can proactively protect biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, support wildlife stewardship, and sustain healthy ecosystems.

As a volunteer I have seen the changes first hand and recognize the need to ACT NOW. We need dedicated and sustainable funding. Please vote Yes to pass this legislation.