

Submitter:

Gwen Stone

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Dear Chair Nathanson and committee members. I support 1.25% for wildlife because;

Investment into Oregon's Natural Legacy: It will conserve and restore Oregon's 300+ vulnerable species and their habitats that support Oregonians livelihoods, quality of life and recreation needs.

Diverse Stakeholder Support: It will solve a long-standing funding gap for wildlife and habitats, and is widely supported by a diverse group of stakeholders with a presence in all parts of Oregon.

Investment in Wildfire Risk Reduction and Workforce Development: It includes stable funding for the Oregon Conservation Corps to keep Oregon's communities safe from wildfire and help build Oregon's workforce.

Reinvestment in Oregon's Tourism: Outdoor recreation is a \$8 billion industry in Oregon and makes up 2.6% of the state's GDP. This concept would reinvest in our natural resources, a major draw for out-of-state tourists, which helps attract more visitors ("if you build it, they will come").

Not a Cost-of-Living Increase: The majority (65%) of those who pay the tax are visitors from other states and countries.

Bipartisan Support: The concept enjoys bipartisan support in both chambers due to its effort to sustainably fund a range of important programs.

Establish Stable Funding: It would make these programs more resilient in an uncertain funding environment.

Doesn't Change Low Tax Ranking: Oregon has the third lowest state lodging tax rate out

of all 50 states and raising the rate by 1.25 percentage points would not change that ranking. Even considering local lodging tax rates, Oregon's communities are still below,

or significantly below, similarly situated out-of-state communities.

Respectfully,

Gwen Stone