

Submitter:

Zoe Beale

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue

My name is Zoe Beale and I live in Corvallis, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

I am a zoology student at Oregon State where I learn about the importance of wildlife and wild spaces in my coursework. I have worked with wildlife for non-profit organizations and have seen first hand the need to protect our wild spaces and our wildlife. Oregon relies on the beauty of our natural spaces to bring tourists with millions of people visit the Oregon State Parks annually to enjoy what Oregon has to offer. This legislation can help reinvest our resources into what matters to keep Oregon a beautiful place that continues to have people wanting to come and enjoy the amazing places that we get to call home.

This 1.25% increase is a small amount, leaving Oregon still with one of the lowest lodging tax rates in the country and is a big step towards conservation of biodiversity. This is a sustainable increase that will send funds to ODFW to recover Oregon's most vulnerable species and habitats, which all of these efforts contribute to a thriving tourism industry in Oregon.

We cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. This legislation would ensure we have both. As a state it is important to invest in the future of our biodiversity and our economy and this bill can have a lasting impact to keep our state a top destination for eco-tourism for generations.

Please pass HB 4134 -1 this legislative session!

Thank you,

Zoe Beale

Corvallis, Oregon