

Submitter: Karen Sjogren

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Please support this bill, which would add a 1.25 per cent tax on tourist oriented facilities to help conserve Oregon's most vulnerable wildlife. Wildlife is one of our greatest assets, supporting outdoor recreation (such as birdwatching), increasing quality of life, and attracting tourists from near and far. Since wildlife brings tourists to our state, it is fair to tax them a bit to help wildlife. Funds would be used to prioritize nonelethal remedies to wildlife conflict, anti poaching enforcement, and habitat improvement. I believe some of the funds would go to rehab facilities, which have to continually plead for funds to keep their doors open. Keep in mind that 65% of the tax would be paid by out of state visitors, and that Oregon still has one of the lowest lodging tax rates in the country. Let's get this bill out of committee and voted on. It should be a priority in this short session.