

Submitter:

Mary Poss

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

In Oregon we now have a unique opportunity to assure that the wildlife and natural resource values of our state are maintained through the uncertainty of political and climatic changes that we are all witnessing. We focus on the revenue aspect provided by wildlife and Oregon natural landscapes for our state. These are important for the annual economic well being of the state. But wildlife need habitat and in many cases, short term projects that extract or otherwise damage these resources imperil the long term survival of Oregon wildlife. More than just a revenue stream, wildlife are key players in the health of our unique and inspiring landscapes, of which Oregon has many. I am very familiar with the richness of Oregon high deserts and how fragile these areas are. I volunteer many days annually to projects that monitor bird populations, restore riparian habitats, and remove barriers to migration. I am joined by many other volunteers who put the hard-and free- labor into projects that benefit all Oregonians and visitors to our state.

HB4134 is a small (1.25%) increase in a lodging tax, payable largely by visitors to our region, that will provide a stable, predictable funding source for the many projects needed to protect the integrity of Oregon landscapes and wildlife. Please get this bill passed to assure that Oregon has sustainable financial resources to protect our wildlife and the habitats that make Oregon such a special place.

I am strongly in support of HB4134. Thank you.