

Submitter:

Josh Czech

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Hi, my name is Josh and I support HB 4134.

Increasing funding for wildlife conservation and law enforcement of regulations aligns with my values as a resident of Oregon. I am not a very wealthy person, and yet with the public lands and various agencies' protections and management, I am able to recreate and enjoy world class wildlife experiences at a very small personal expense. The natural recreational resources of Oregon are incredible and can use all the money they can get from wealthier people that stay in places like hotels and airbnbs. I am just above the poverty line, and airbnbs and hotels are already expensive. I would have no problem at all paying more money to support the agencies and funds that this bill includes. The wealthy people that can spend 1000s of dollars on travel sports for their children, or weeklong float trips down the Deschutes, or cat skiing adventures in the Wallowas, should absolutely pay money to support those places as well. Understanding and enacting situations where ecological diversity is prioritized is not always innately visible or popular, but it is something that people who live on Oregon should be proud of supporting. For example I am readily familiar with, we have the most native freshwater salmonids out of any state or province on the continent. Recreational and commercial fisheries, both of which are heavily reliant on salmonids, already contribute over 2 billion dollars annually to Oregon and both of those industries can be improved vastly by better management and more funding. You can catch native Chinook, Chum, Coho, Sockeye/Kokanee, coastal rainbow trout both anadromous and resident, coastal cutthroat trout both anadromous and resident, westslope cutthroat trout, Columbia Basin redband trout, Upper Klamath Lake redband trout, Great Basin redband trout (of which there are 7 different unique lineages in separate basins), Willow-Whitehorse cutthroat trout, bull trout, and whitefish in various Oregon waterways. In no other state or province on earth can you do that. Oregon's ecological diversity should be supported by the people that travel and enjoy it, no matter if they are coming from the other side of town or the other side of the globe, no matter if they have put in the effort to understand its importance or not. I believe that this bill helps with accomplishing that goal.