

Submitter:

Kelly Anez

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I am wiring in support of HB 4134

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue

My name is Kelly Anez, and I and my family live in 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.

We have chosen Oregon to make our home after moving from California. We came here for the opportunity it provides for natural living in an incredibly special place, and our state's identity is closely tied to its rich natural heritage, including native fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. Oregonians' love for the outdoors is known throughout this country and beyond. Oregonians like me are proud of our natural heritage and want to see it thrive for future generations. We would never have chosen Oregon as a destination without the opportunity for natural living. Securing long-term dedicated funding to recover our most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats, is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. I urge you to support this landmark bill, which would dedicate long-term funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife and habitats - all of which are critical for our state's tourism economy. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy - 2.6% of the state's GDP - supports 192,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in these resources now will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities in the future. As well, consider the economics of people that choose to make this state home BECAUSE of the wildlife opportunities. Our family brought an Engineer, an Architect, a Sales Executive and two doctors to this state because we all wanted to live here. Our friends that moved here about the same time are vascular surgeons. Another Engineer friend moved here for the outdoor experience. The list goes on and on....but the idea is the same. Economically the state benefits from attracting these individuals who want to make Oregon home.

We cannot have a thriving tourism economy or attract and retain professionals who want the outdoor experience without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. This legislation would ensure we have both. At a time when the federal government is slashing funds and dismantling policies that protect our vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats, Oregon has a chance to set an example and protect our natural heritage. Doing so would make Oregon a national leader.

Thank you,  
the Anez Family  
Bend, OR