

Submitter: Glenn Newland
On Behalf Of: Arts and Cultural Non Profits
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I support the bill and would like to see it pass. Further, my interest in these proposed room tax increases, on short-term lodging, relates to how said money should be distributed.

Although I understand that the stated goal of this bill is to support the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in conserving imperiled species and habitats, I feel strongly that other considerations should be made as well. As a resident / volunteer and proponent for a local Non-Profit Arts organization I would like to point out that the funds raised from lodging should be shared by other influencers that have a demonstrated impact on the travel industry.

The Arts and Culture sector that draw visitors as well and has impacts on the lodging and business success of our beautiful state should, in some way, share any potential earnings based on these important organizations' influence on engaging and encouraging tourists and visitors.

As an example, spending by nonprofit arts and culture organizations in Eugene contribute \$90 million to the local economy compared to a national median of \$13 million in similarly sized cities. Like other sectors we have witnessed a loss of funding nationally which has had a dramatic downstream effect.

I appreciate your hearing me out.

Glenn Newland