

Submitter: Austin Koontz

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Chair Nathanson and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my support for HB 4134, the "1.25% for Wildlife" tax. While I'm hesitant for tax increases generally, I think this increase is relatively modest, narrowly focused, and carries important implications for Oregon's wildlife. Assuming that the funds generated from this tax increase can be meaningfully translated to important conservation improvements for wildlife, then the benefits stemming from HB 4134 certainly seem to outweigh the costs.

Oregon's tourism tax will still be the third lowest in the nation even after this increase from 1.5% to 2.75%, and this state's wildlife is a valuable driver of tourism to the state. I believe the motivation of this tax increase is logical, and that the tax will be an important source of income for a set of priorities (wildlife conservation) which are chronically underfunded, in our state and in our country.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony, and for your service to the state of Oregon.