

Submitter: Sherry Brainerd

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Chair Nathanson and House Committee on Revenue members:

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 vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

In Oregon, our identity is closely tied to the natural wonders of our state and our rich array of wildlife. Oregonians' love for the outdoors is well-known, and securing long-term dedicated funding to recover our most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats, is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians.

I urge support of this bill dedicating long-term funding to recover Oregon's vulnerable fish, wildlife and habitats. This is critical for both residents and our state's tourism economy, which supports 192,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Our thriving outdoor tourism economy would suffer without healthy and abundant fish and wildlife populations. Investing in wildlife and habitat conservation projects will also generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities now and into the future.

As the federal government is dismantling the policies that protect our fish and wildlife, and slashing funding sources, Oregon can set a better example and protect our natural heritage.

This bill is an important opportunity to protect the rich biodiversity that makes Oregon an incredible place to both live and to visit. Please pass HB 4134 -1 this legislative session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sherry Brainerd