

Submitter: Nancy Hinnen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

To Esteemed Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

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.

In Oregon, our identity is integrally tied to the natural wonders of our state and our diverse array of wildlife. Without them, Oregon would not be Oregon. I think we need to take steps to secure these valuable keystones to this place and this bill is a step in the right direction.

Oregonians' love for the outdoors is well-known statewide and nationwide and securing long-term dedicated funding to recover our most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats, is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians.

I also want to urge you to support this landmark bill, which would dedicate long-term funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife and habitats, because this is critical for our state's tourism economy, which supports 192,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending.

Aside from our values that emphasize nature, our thriving outdoor tourism economy would suffer without healthy and abundant fish and wildlife populations. Investing in wildlife and habitat conservation projects will generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities now, and well in the future.

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

This bill is your once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect the rich biodiversity that makes Oregon an incredible place to live and to visit.

Please pass HB 4134 -1 this legislative session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy P. Hinnen