

Submitter:

Eric Weiss

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

My name is Eric Weiss and I am a constituent from Bend, Oregon. I am registering this testimony in support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax to promote conservation of wildlife habitat and keep Oregon wild, vibrant and beautiful for future generations.

I was drawn to Oregon for its natural beauty, and to Bend more specifically for its proximity to wild spaces. It is a combination of natural history, wildlife, primary ecosystems and the combination of these diverse habitats that make this state so special. While climate change devastates not only our state, but the whole world, we need to be stepping up and doing everything we can to safeguard these natural wonders for future generations.

Securing this long term funding is imperative for the recovery of local fish, wildlife and at risk habitats. This minor tax increase will not be noticed by visitors, who overwhelmingly come here to appreciate these natural spaces. Oregon's outdoor tourism economy supports almost 200,000 jobs and brings in billions in consumer spending. Investing in maintain these resources is not only beneficial for Oregon's wildlife, but also for Oregon's economy.

I urge you to pass HB 4134-1 this legislative session protect Oregon's wild spaces and maintain the thriving tourism economy we enjoy.

Thank you,
Eric Weiss
Bend, Oregon