

Submitter: Robin Hayakawa

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Chair Nathanson and House Committee on Revenue members:

Please support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

I am a lifelong Oregonian and I feel lucky that from a young age, I've had opportunities to be around wildlife. Growing up, I remember being thrilled by even the most common place or routine wildlife encounter -- an osprey fishing on the Willamette, red-tailed hawks perched on fence lines, even nutria (non-native, I know) trundling around a local wetland. In recent years, I've cherished opportunities to watch herds mule deer and elk in Central Oregon, black bears foraging in the Columbia River Gorge, and industrious beavers on the Deschutes River. I really could go on. Quail in my backyard. Otters popping their head out of the water on a kayak trip. Coyotes scampering across an eastern Oregon highway. Mysterious tracks in the snow while skiing.

The point, though, is that I want to urge you to support this bill. Oregon is a state that is known and loved for its wildlife and natural resources. 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. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,