

Letter in Support of HB 4134

A Modest Increase to the State Transient Lodging Tax Establishes Dedicated Funding Supporting Oregon's Lands, Waters and Wildlife

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue:

My name is David Moskowitz. I live in Northeast Portland, OR.

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment.

As an Oregonian since 1987, I want to see our extraordinary landscapes, species, and the communities that have relied on them to thrive for generations to come. People from around the world come to our state to experience Oregon's stunning natural beauty from the coast to the Snake River and from the Columbia River to the Great Basin.

However, these landscapes also support multiple species of fish and wildlife that are part and parcel with the various ecosystems that make Oregon a beacon for visitors seeking the vistas but also the creatures and plants that rely on Oregon's uniqueness.

HB 4134 will generate the funds we need to protect the places and keep good inventories of their fishy, feathery and furry inhabitants. This investment is also timely as the impacts of climate change continue to unfold throughout Oregon.

Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan, already in place with strategies to restore struggling wildlife populations and build ecological resiliency, provides a running start on action to ensure Oregon's unique and perfectly adapted critters remain abundant, resilient and productive across the landscape.

By passing HB 4134, Oregon will be able to realize the benefits from innovative solutions from enhancing and stretching wildlife coexistence efforts and wildfire management plans to help boost our outdoor recreation and tourism sectors.

HB 4134 is supported by many private businesses around Oregon, as well as more than 70 nonprofit organizations. It also has bipartisan legislative sponsors.

HB 4134 provides a chance for Oregon to take another step forward as a leader in innovative long-term economic successes where business and environmental protection go hand in hand.

Every community in Oregon benefits from our natural and supernatural beauty. The unique quilt of geologic forces, weather, waters, plants and multiple species of insects, birds, fish, reptiles and mammals make everyday in Oregon extraordinary.

Oregon will not have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. This legislation would ensure we have both. As the federal

government is slashing funds and dismantling policies that protect vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats, Oregon has a chance to set an example and protect our natural heritage. Doing so will make Oregon a national leader - doing it the “Oregon Way” once again.

HB 4134 provides one small mechanism for Oregonians and visitors to pay it forward to future visitors to the Beaver (and Duck) state!

Please support sustaining Oregon’s natural legacy - a principal driver for instate and out of state tourism - and pass HB 4134 – 1 this legislative session.

Sincerely,
David A. Moskowitz
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