

Submitter: Ruth Musgrave  
On Behalf Of: self  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Ruth Musgrave, and I am testifying as a private citizen. I support OR HB 4134. I am a resident of Washington State; however, I visit Oregon at least once every other month, sometimes every month. My stays vary from two nights to two weeks, and I have stayed in many different motels and hotels. Most of my visits are to Bend, Oregon, where my daughter lives. The main activities of my visits entail hiking, wildlife tracking, and watching birds.

Despite the thousands of dollars that I have spent over the years visiting Oregon, I enthusiastically support bipartisan HB 4134. The very small lodging tax that is proposed in this bill would absolutely not deter me or my family. On the contrary, my family and I would be even more inclined to visit Oregon if we felt that the diversity of animal life that we enjoy so much when visiting would be better protected and managed through the "nature conservation fee."

The State of Hawaii last year passed SB 1396, a new "Green Fee" which is a 0.75 percentage point increase in the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT), bringing the total rate to 11%. The tax is applied to hotels, vacation rentals, and cruise ships to fund environmental protection, climate resilience, and infrastructure. Oregon's HB 4134 is only a 1.25% lodging tax increase, totaling 2.75%, and Oregon would still remain one of the lowest lodging taxes in the nation.

Please pass HB 4134, to help protect some of the most beautiful habitat and plentiful wildlife in the nation. Thank you.