

Submitter: Tove Danovich

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Tove Danovich and I live in Milwaukie, Oregon. I urge you to support 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.

I moved to Oregon in large part because of the wildlife and natural environment here. I think it's one of the reasons that people love this state and want to make it their homes. During my ten years in Oregon, most of my recreational outings have been to see wildlife and state parks. During those outings, I am happy to spend money at local businesses and visit parts of Oregon I otherwise might not see. For both residents and visitors alike, our natural environment is one of our strongest assets as a state. Like many Oregonians, I strongly support long-term, dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat protection. This funding will help manage natural areas to help with wildfire resiliency. It will also create job growth by boosting tourism, outdoor recreation, and other industries.

I know the economic benefit is important--and I believe that this will have a strong, positive impact on our state longterm--but I also believe that it's the right thing to do. We share this state with so many other creatures who deserve to have their habitats protected. This is a case where the right thing is the same as the economically beneficial thing.

Our tourism economy needs healthy wildlife and habitat. This legislation would provide both without burdening Oregonians. The increase in state lodging tax this would require is still quite small compared to most locations in the country and would ensure that there are many places worth visiting for generations to come.

I sincerely urge you to support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134 today.

-Tove Danovich