

Submitter: Diane Bolte Silverman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Nathanson and committee members, I strongly support 1.25% (HB 4134) for wildlife. My husband and I hike in the Cascades, the Wallowas, along the Oregon coast, and elsewhere in Oregon. Oregon's natural beauty and its many wild inhabitants are the main reasons we moved here 20 years ago and we continue to enjoy our state's natural areas. The animals, fish, insects, and birds are an integral part of our state and we need to do everything possible to protect them and, hopefully, increase their numbers to ensure their survival into the future. Our state will be more beautiful and welcoming to those of us who live here and to the many visitors from elsewhere when our natural heritage is protected.

The minor increase of 1.25%, 65% of which is paid by out of state visitors, is a very small amount that will have a major positive impact in protecting wildlife, increase recreational experiences for all of us, help rehabilitate wildlife (I volunteered with wildlife rehabilitation when living in Colorado), help reduce wildfires, and bring money into the state in addition to other issues. Supporting an increase of 1.25% for wildlife is a win/win decision for Oregon and all of its inhabitants.

Thank you for considering my comments and please vote yes on HB 4134.