

Submitter:

David Dickinson

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

As a proud Oregonian I strongly support HB 4134 to increase the state transient lodging tax to fund crucial efforts to preserve and maintain our vital state wildlife and their habitat. I am also a professional landscape painter, as well as an avid hiker and backpacker who spends a good portion of my time in natural places making art in homage to Oregon's natural wonders. From desert to forests to coast, I have seen so many of Oregon's wild places and living organisms, and I have seen first hand the challenges they increasingly face. Most people who come as tourists to our state are drawn in large part by our unique natural heritage. Wildlife and wild habitat face increasing pressure from tourism and development. We must preserve our natural heritage now and for future generations. Wildlife and natural places define our region and give immense value to our quality of life and our spiritual experience of being alive. Wildlife preservation efforts are more important than ever as natural habitat ranges shrink AND ecosystems face added pressure of rapid climate change. Oregon wouldn't be Oregon without these natural, biological treasures.