

Submitter: Donna Harris  
On Behalf Of: Individual  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Donna Harris and I live in Bend, Oregon. I am writing in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Oregon's identity is deeply tied to its natural heritage. Native fish, wildlife, and the habitats that sustain them are central to our quality of life and to the outdoor experiences that draw people from around the world. As an Oregonian, I want to see these resources not just survive, but thrive for future generations.

Dedicated, long-term funding for conservation is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. HB 4134 would provide that funding while also strengthening Oregon's outdoor tourism economy, which supports 192,000 jobs and \$16 billion in consumer spending annually. We cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy ecosystems.

For 5 yrs. I was a member and advocate for Protect Animal Migration ( PAM)which fought for wildlife crossings for Hwy 97 through Central Or where over a 1000 deer were killed annually on our ODOT, County, and City of Bend roads within Deschutes Co, PAM was the first to combine all these deer -vehicle collision within Deschutes Co. and made the horrendous figures public. We joined together with ODOT and ODFW Wildlife biologists agents to educate neighborhood associations , provide film festivals about the importance of wildlife corridor migrations, and met with officials from ODOT to support newly proposed crossings near and south of Sunriver. These have helped not only save lives of humans, but have been almost 90% effective in reducing deer- vehicle collisions. Tell me , what is so bad about these positive effects that one would want to be against HB 4134?

At a time when federal protections and funding are being rolled back, Oregon has an opportunity to lead. Please support HB 4134 and help protect the natural legacy that makes this state so special.