

Submitter:

Patricia Ormsbee

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of 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 have lived, paid taxes, and worked in natural resources/wildlife research, conservation, and management in Oregon for over 50 years. HB4134 is one of the smartest and obvious wins for conservation that ties individual human activity with a small but significant conservation responsibility where it counts - in the coffers to protect and sustain Oregon's incredible array of wildlife and the ecological diversity Oregon wildlife depends on and we Oregonians are so proud of.

Humans have been and will continue to be one of the largest indelible impacts on the natural world and we must responsibly balance our negative actions with positive ones through actions such as passing HB 4134. Our thriving tourism economy depends on thriving fish and wildlife populations and the habitats that support them. On an individual basis, visitors are unlikely to notice their small contribution and are more likely to commend it if they do notice. This small tax that provides an opportunity for people to give back to wildlife through HB4134 is a brilliant win-win, will make a meaningful difference in conservation and make people feel good about their contribution to balancing out the human-caused good with the bad wildlife impacts. Let's not miss an opportunity like this where everyone wins. HB 4134 will provide sustainable funding to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife so that they can address the myriad of challenges to protecting wildlife species and their habitats now and in the future. Please support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134.

Sincerely, Pat Ormsbee, Eugene, OR