

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Suzan Heglin and I have live in Hillsboro and Tualatin, Oregon. I work in Oregon, as well as recreat in the state. 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. IT's SUCH A SMALL AMOUNT compared to the amount of money made. It's a drop in the bucket toward what is needed (and often the damage done).

Securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitats protection, is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. The funding would not only help wildlife and habitats, but also support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in these resources now will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities in the future.

We cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. This legislation would ensure we have both. At a time when the federal government is slashing funds and dismantling policies that protect our vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats, Oregon has a chance to set an example and protect our natural heritage. Doing so would make Oregon a national leader.

Please support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134 today.

Suzan Heglin