

Submitter: John Hamburg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Nathanson and committee members, I am expressing my support for HB4134 which increases lodging tax by an additional 1.25 percent to fund state programs to protect and help recover our native wildlife species that continue to lose ground in regards to numbers and habitat. Substantial and in many cases very severe decreases in population have occurred in the past fifty years. A sustainable source of funding would go a long way towards addressing this loss of irreplaceable heritage.

The state's lodging tax is one of the lowest in the country currently, and would remain low relative to others. Sightings of birds flying overhead, marine creatures in tidepools, antelope grazing in grasslands and fields along the highway, shorebirds feeding at the shores of the ocean outside of the hotel are things that people remember as a special part of their visits to Oregon.

Thank you.