

Submitter: David Kracke

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear House Committee on Revenue,

Thank you for considering my comments in support of HB 4134.

Oregon is known as a mecca for tourists seeking to enjoy our state's natural beauty, wildlife diversity, and the tranquility that comes from both. Outdoor recreation is one of our largest industries, making up an impressive 2.6% of our state's GDP. In other words, Oregon's wild areas and the flora and fauna that call them home draw millions of tourists to our wonderful state.

Many, if not most, of those visitors are subject to the transient occupancy tax during their visit here, and because Oregon has the third-lowest lodging tax rate out of all fifty states, we have the opportunity to increase this lodging tax rate in a way that will help preserve the very reason many of the tourists are coming here in the first place without discouraging that tourism.

The revenue collected from this important bill will provide crucial funding for wildlife conservation, anti-poaching enforcement, tourism reinvestment, wildfire risk reduction, and workforce development. It is time for the tourists who are here to enjoy all that makes Oregon unique and special to contribute a bit more to help preserve that which they are coming here to enjoy.

Thank you again for considering my position on this important bill, and I urge a unanimous vote in its favor.

Sincerely,

David Kracke