

Submitter:

Chelsea Lehmann

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue

My name is Chelsea and I live in Bend, Oregon. 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.

Increasing Oregon's statewide lodging tax, currently one of the lowest in the country and will remain so even with the 1.25% increase, would provide a sustainable source of funds to ODFW to recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitat and enhance biodiversity - all of which contribute to Oregon's tourism and outdoor recreation economy while keeping the tax at still one of the lowest in the country.

As an Oregonian, you know how special Oregon - and the wildlife that call this place home - is. It defines our state and is closely tied to most Oregonians' values to see fish, wildlife and habitats not just survive but thrive. This legislation will protect Oregon's rich natural legacy into the future.

With your advocacy, we have a real shot at passing this historic funding bill in the 2026 session and putting Oregon's most vulnerable wildlife on a better path.

Thank you,
Chelsea Lehmann