

Submitter: Susan Hermreck
On Behalf Of: HB4134
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 4134, which proposes a modest 1.25% increase to Oregon's statewide tourism tax to provide critical funding for wildlife, habitat, and land stewardship.

Oregon's natural landscapes, waters, and wildlife are among our state's greatest assets and are a primary draw for visitors from around the world. Yet these same resources are increasingly strained and underfunded. HB 4134 offers a responsible, forward-thinking solution by directing tourism-generated revenue toward the protection of the very places and species that make Oregon such a desirable destination—without raising taxes on Oregon residents.

Importantly, even with this increase, Oregon would remain the third lowest in state lodging tax rates nationwide. This proposal would not affect our competitive standing, but it would make a meaningful difference on the ground. The funds generated would help reduce wildfire risk, support habitat conservation, compensate ranchers for losses related to wolf depredation, and strengthen outdoor recreation—an industry that contributes more than \$8 billion annually to Oregon's economy.

HB 4134 addresses a long-standing funding gap while aligning economic vitality with conservation and community safety. It is a practical, equitable approach that benefits residents, visitors, and future generations alike.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 4134 and support a sustainable investment in Oregon's wildlife, habitats, and rural communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Crook County Commissioner Susan Hermreck