

**Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,**

I urge you to support HB 4134 to secure long-term, dedicated funding to recover Oregon's most imperiled fish, wildlife, and habitats..

I am writing to in turn express my strong support for HB 4134, which is vital for securing long-term funding for the recovery of Oregon's most at-risk fish, wildlife, and habitats. As a committed outdoor enthusiast and taxpayer in our beloved state, I have witnessed firsthand the significant role that our parks and hiking trails play in attracting eco and recreation tourism.

The contributions of hikers, climbers, and nature lovers not only enrich our communities but also significantly bolster Oregon's economy. I believe that increasing the state lodging tax from 1.5% to 2.75% is a reasonable step towards ensuring the preservation of our natural resources and wildlife diversity, which are in jeopardy due to pollution and changing migration patterns.

It is perplexing that there is currently no dedicated funding to safeguard the wildlife that draws tourists to our state while other sectors receive support. By endorsing HB 4134, we can protect the very species and habitats that make Oregon a premier destination for visitors. Our local parks are already showing signs of decline without appropriate oversight, and this modest increase in lodging tax is essential for maintaining the beauty and integrity of our lands. I encourage you to support this historic bill to ensure that Oregon remains a vibrant and inviting place for all. Thank you for considering the importance of this initiative.

Sincerely,

Thea Kuticka

Portland, Oregon