

Submitter: Kevin Spencer  
On Behalf Of: Kevin Spencer  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

858 Rosemont Court  
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue

My name is Kevin Spencer, and I live in Klamath Falls, 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.

Oregon, and especially Klamath County, is an incredibly special place, and our state's identity is

closely tied to its rich natural heritage, including native fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support

them. Oregonians' love for the outdoors is known throughout this country and beyond. I am in

constant amazement to see how much others are enjoying this state's wildlife when I am often

out myself. Oregonians like me are proud of our natural heritage and want to see it thrive for

future generations.

Securing long-term dedicated funding to recover our most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats,

is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. I urge you to support this landmark bill, which

would dedicate long-term funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats

- all of which are critical for our state's tourism economy. This state's abundant diversity of

wildlife makes Oregon great and deserves to be maintained. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism

economy, which is 2.6% of the state's GDP, and supports 192,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion

in consumer spending. Continuing to attract that tourism income is important.

Investing in these

resources now will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities

in the future.

We cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the

habitats that support them. After all, it is the enthusiasm for Oregon's natural beauty that attracts the desire to come to Oregon. This legislation would ensure we have both, to support the item, tourism, and what that brings people, wildlife, and habitats. Oregon has a chance to set an example and protect our natural heritage. Doing so would make Oregon a national leader.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect our natural legacy and rich biodiversity, which make this state so special. Please pass HB 4134 -1 this legislative session!

Looking forward to passage of HB 4134-1,

Kevin Spencer  
Klamath Falls, OR