

Submitter: Karl Wenner
On Behalf Of: Redband Resources LLC
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Support for 4134

I am the CEO of Redband Resources, LLC, a diversified business with properties throughout the state and internationally. Redband Resources, LLC strongly supports HB 4134. Among other ventures, we own a 400 cattle ranch in Klamath County and are known to have wolves on the property. We have not yet lost a cow to them but it is just a matter of time. Our adjacent neighbors have not been so lucky. We strongly support the provision in HB 4134 that will provide the funding to compensate ranchers for the loss of cattle to wolves.

In addition, we own rental properties around the state, and are subject to the transient lodging tax via vacation rentals. Our guests are paying that tax, as well they should. Our busiest and most profitable rental is in Bend, OR. Our guests are 70% from out of state, and are coming to Oregon to experience our incredible outdoors. They come to fish, hunt, kayak, raft, mountain bike, bird etc. . They appreciate the wildlife we have here and that is a big part of the draw. Their presence puts pressure on our dwindling wildlife resources and it is appropriate for them to pay this (paltry) tax. I am 100% confident that this puny tax will in no way impact our bookings. What would impact our bookings is if we have continued degradation of the integrity of Oregon's ecosystems and if our declining wildlife populations continue to dwindle. The loss of that attractiveness is the real threat to tourism in Oregon, not this tiny tax. I urge you to support this bill and to disregard the other travel related businesses that are in opposition due to their tragic shortsightedness regarding what is really important to Oregon's tourism.