

Submitter: Carrie Walker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

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.

I have taught at the college level in Oregon for the last ten years and have been an active member of my communities in both Portland and Bend. It is from one of my students' research projects that I have learned how old systems of funding wildlife protection have become insufficient. Oregon is now my chosen home, and the main reason I have settled here is due to the wildlife and natural resources. Not only do I enjoy both recreationally, but I also write about them as part of my profession.

Having lived all over the U.S. before settling in Oregon, I am well aware of our unique landscapes and their inhabitants—and the need for them to be protected.

In addition to teaching as a college professor and writing about Oregon's natural resources, I am also a short-term rental host. For this reason, I am very well acquainted with my guests' love of nature and consistently hear from guests how much they love their interactions with wildlife during their stays. By protecting wildlife and our vulnerable surroundings, HB 4134 will continue to bring visitors to Oregon, which in turn supports local businesses. For this reason, the tax increase is well justified.

HB 4134 is a clear winner for all of Oregon's inhabitants and communities.

Thank you,

Carrie Walker
Bend, Oregon