

Submitter:

Joan Thomposn

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Dear members of the House Committee on Revenue,

I am asking you to support HB4134 because Oregon needs tourism to support its economy and funding conservation will help keep Oregon attractive to tourists. If passed, Oregon will still have the 3rd lowest tourism tax. Other states will quickly follow Oregon's lead and Oregon will not be an outlier in terms of taxing tourists for conservation.

Additionally, Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife lacks stable funding, especially for non-game species. HB4134 changes that, addressing an issue that is plaguing state wildlife agencies across the country. This bill, supported by a diverse and bipartisan coalition, presents a historic policy opportunity.

HB 4134 strengthens our tourism and outdoor economy, without raising costs for residents. Because HB 4134 is funded by an increase in the transient lodging tax, a majority of the funding will not come from Oregon residents. Outdoor recreation is a \$16 billion industry in Oregon. We can keep that industry growing and thriving by investing in the wildlife.

This is an easy way to protect and promote what is special about Oregon!

Thank you,

Joan Thompson