

Submitter:

Max Menchaca

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Hello,

I am writing in support of HB 4134. First of all, this bill has ALREADY been passed by the House, in the 2025 legislative session. There is clearly already support for this bill!

Increasing the state lodging tax to support Oregon's wildlife and habitats is especially essential while the state suffers a budget shortfall, and counter-effective actions by the federal government. Just in the first year of the current administration, bellicose rhetoric towards Canada has had a noticeable effect on Canadian tourism to Oregon, especially the Oregon Coast. We need to find ALL the help we can get to keep the Oregon we cherish. People come to Oregon for its cities, its people, AND its wild spaces. Tourists would be very happy to support this tax to keep the Oregon they love!

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. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy - 2.6% of the state's GDP - supports 192,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. 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. This legislation would ensure we have both. At a time when the federal government is slashing funds and dismantling policies that protect our vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats, Oregon has a chance to set an example and protect our natural heritage. Doing so would make Oregon a national leader. Please pass HB 4134 this short legislative session!