

Submitter: Scott Shurtleff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

We are watching as Oregon's natural environment degrade. Most tourists come to Oregon to experience the magnificence and beauty of Oregon's natural environment by camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, boating, or simply sightseeing. Thus, Oregon's tourism economy depends upon a vibrant natural environment.

There are undeniably many reasons for our degrading natural environment that I won't list here. It's also undeniable that a lack of predictable and sustainable funding to preserve and restore ecosystems is one of the causes.

Except for Nevada, Oregon's transient lodging tax is by far the lowest in the country, especially since Oregon does not have a sales tax. Don't be fooled by the high percentage objections that we're sure to hear: a high percentage increase to a low tax rate is still a low tax rate. In reality, this bill proposes a relatively small incremental tax increase that will be born largely by visitors, not on the backs of most Oregonians.

HB 4134 enables necessary investment in our natural environment: investment that is needed now. It's also an investment in the long-term health of the tourism industry in Oregon. Please advance HB 4134 with a 'do pass' recommendation.

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