

Submitter: Micah Meskel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Micah Meskel and I live in Milwaukie, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment.

I believe it is completely appropriate to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. The funding would not only help wildlife and habitats, but also support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars as it will help protect and steward the public resource that draws so many tourists to our state. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 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.

And securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitats protection, is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians.

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 support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134 today.