

Submitter:

Amy Stark

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Amy Stark, and I live in Sherwood, Oregon. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment, which would increase the state lodging tax by 1.25 percent to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Oregon's natural landscapes and outdoor recreation opportunities are central to our identity and our economy. Tourism supports nearly 200,000 jobs statewide and generates approximately \$16 billion in consumer spending each year. The funding provided through HB 4134 would help ensure that the fish, wildlife, and habitats that attract visitors to Oregon are protected and restored, while also supporting the local communities and businesses that depend on tourism revenue.

A strong tourism economy depends on healthy and abundant natural resources. Without functioning habitats and resilient wildlife populations, Oregon risks undermining one of its most reliable economic engines. This legislation recognizes that conservation and economic vitality are not competing priorities, but mutually reinforcing ones.

At a time when federal funding for conservation is being reduced and longstanding protections for fish and wildlife are being weakened, Oregon has an opportunity to step forward. By investing in the stewardship of our natural resources, the state can safeguard its environmental heritage, support rural and urban economies alike, and demonstrate leadership at the national level.

I respectfully urge the committee to support the "1.25% for Wildlife" initiative and pass HB 4134.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Stark