

Submitter:

Zach Gustin

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Hi my name is Zach Gustin and I'm writing to offer my strong support of HB 4134 with the amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. Below are some of the reasons why I support HB 4134 with the amendment.

Healthy wildlife and habitats are essential to Oregon's economy. Oregon's outdoor recreation and tourism economy depends on healthy lands and waters. The outdoor economy contributes 2.6% of Oregon's GDP, supports 192,000 jobs, and generates \$16 billion in consumer spending.

We cannot have a strong tourism economy without healthy ecosystems. Protecting fish, wildlife, and habitats is not separate from economic vitality—it is foundational to it. Investing in conservation now supports local communities and long-term economic resilience.

HB 4134 would make Oregon a national leader. By passing this bill, Oregon can set an example for how states can proactively protect biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, support wildlife stewardship, and sustain healthy ecosystems.

Lastly, I'd like you to know that I am not native to Oregon but have chosen to call Bend my home-like so many others—due to the areas easy access to nature and its natural beauty, including the native wildlife. If Oregon's ecosystems and biodiversity are allowed to be squandered, burn, and dry up, then so will its tourism industry and the tax revenue of the people who chose to live here. Therefore, I urge you to think longterm and preserve future generations' chance to enjoy Oregon the way I do and pass HB4134.

Thank you for your time, and may you ever be in harmony with nature and yourself.

Best regards,

Zach