

Submitter: Charlie Stephens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue:

I am writing in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% in order to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable birds, fish, wildlife, and habitats.

I enjoy birds and wildlife on a regular basis. It's one of the things that makes living in Oregon so special. And so, it's important to me that Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) can engage proactively to help conserve our state's most imperiled native birds, fish, and wildlife and the habitats that support them.

Beyond ethical reasons for conservation, wildlife watching has a higher economic value in Oregon than hunting and fishing combined –and so it makes good economic sense to invest in wildlife. Adding just \$1.25 for a \$100 hotel room would provide a solid, sustainable investment in the very reason so many visitors travel to Oregon and would help ensure our cherished wildlife can survive into the future.

I urge you to please support this proactive bill in this legislative session!

Sincerely,
Charlie Stephens
Port Orford, Oregon