

Submitter:

Pablo San Emeterio

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

My name is Pablo San Emeterio and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

As we all know, Oregon is an incredibly special place, and so much of that is due to its rich natural heritage including its fish, wildlife, and the habitat that supports them throughout the state. Not only do Oregonians know and love this state's natural heritage, but others around the world come visit Oregon because of the natural heritage as well. We love and are proud of what we have in Oregon, and we want to see it survive and thrive for future generations.

Securing long-term dedicated funding to recover and support our most vulnerable species and their habitats is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians, as evidenced by this bill's support this session and support for HB 2977 in 2025. I urge you to support this landmark bill which would dedicate long-term funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable species and habitat, and in turn support our state's ever-important tourism economy. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy, equal to 2.6% of the state's GDP, supports 192,000 jobs and bring in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in Oregon's natural heritage will continue to generate more economic opportunities well into the future.

At a time when the federal government is slashing funds and dismantling environmental policies aimed at protecting fish and wildlife and their habitats, Oregon has a chance to set an excellent example and protect our natural heritage. Oregon can be a national leader. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and I urge you to pass HB 4134-1 this legislative session.

Thank you!