

Submitter:

adrian slade

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 Adrian Slade and I am a homeowner in Manzanita, Oregon. I am a wildlife enthusiast, birdwatcher, and naturalist. I have brought numerous injured wild birds to various licensed wildlife rehabilitators in Oregon over the years and have been amazed by their tireless dedication to the recovery and well-being of these animals who were almost always injured or traumatized by human activity. Not only does wildlife rehabilitation engender a strong sense of stewardship and a connection to wildlife in citizens of Oregon, but it has tangible benefits to wildlife populations, as many rehabilitated animals go on to live successful lives. For instance, a golden eagle that was rehabilitated by Blue Mountain Wildlife was trapped by USFWS one year post-release and is now part of a long-term monitoring study. 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.

Many Oregonians support endeavors to secure long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat protection. This funding would not only help wildlife and their habitats, but would also support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Oregon's strong 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.

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 and a symbol of the right kind of progress, one that blends economic growth with stewardship of the rich biodiversity that supports Oregonian livelihood and serves as a major tourism attractant to our state.

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

Thank you,

Adrian