

Submitter: Lisa Perazzoli

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Lisa Perazzoli and I live in Bend, 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.

Oregon is an incredibly special place. When people visit Oregon, they want to behold Oregon's awe-inspiring scenery and wildlife. Our natural environment and wildlife is what makes Oregon so unique. We host family and friends from all over North America and they all want to visit Oregon to see the elk herd, play in the mountains, and swim in our alpine lakes. Oregon's environment and wildlife face so many threats (mostly man made) every day. It saddens me to see our wildlife populations decline and special places destroyed (by overuse, fires, etc.)

Securing long-term dedicated funding to recover our most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats, is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. I urge you to support this landmark bill, which would dedicate long-term funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife and habitats - all of which are critical for our state's tourism economy. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy - 2.6% of the state's GDP - supports 192,000 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.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect our natural legacy and rich biodiversity, which make this state so special. Please pass HB 4134 -1 this legislative session!

Thank you.

Lisa Perazzoli
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