

Submitter:

Zachary Hill

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

My name is Zachary Hill and I live in Bend, Oregon. I am writing to state my strong support of house bill 4134.

This legislation protects wildlife and human health.

The health of people and our environment is inextricably linked. Keeping nature healthy keeps people healthy. Projects funded by this legislation will help protect and clean drinking water, support wild pollinators that are essential to our food and natural systems, and maintain species like bats that help control insect populations. These investments aren't just an investment in our environment; they're an investment in community health.

Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife lacks stable funding, especially for non-game species.

HB4134 changes that, addressing an issue that is plaguing state wildlife agencies across the country. This bill, supported by a diverse and bipartisan coalition, presents a historic policy opportunity.

HB 4134 strengthens our tourism and outdoor economy, without raising costs for residents.

Because HB 4134 is funded by an increase in the transient lodging tax, a majority of the funding will not come from Oregon residents. Outdoor recreation is a \$16 billion industry in Oregon. We can keep that industry growing and thriving by investing in the wildlife and natural spaces that attract visitors, all while still keeping Oregon's statewide lodging tax one of the lowest in the nation.

I support HB 4134 and would gladly pay a few dollars more on my hotel bill to protect Oregon's natural legacy.

Sincerely,

Zachary Hogan Hill

Bend, Oregon