

Submitter: Nancy Hoffman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 with an amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

As a coastal resident, I see on a daily basis that our tourism economy here thrives because of the healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. Our tourism economy on the coast and having healthy fish, wildlife, and habitats complement each other. If our fish and wildlife populations, and their homes, are neglected, so too we will see a decline in our tourism economy. This legislation would ensure we continue to have both.

I recognize as State Representatives that you are all tasked with resolving Oregon's revenue issues. Thank you for your diligent service on this issue. HB 4134-1 will take pressure off General Funds by folding in quite a few programs that get General Funds support and also addresses agency "asks" that are never met by General Funds.

Importantly, the funding for HB 4134-1 will be generated by a 1.25% increase in the Transient Lodging Tax (TLT), with estimated 65% of this being paid for by Non-Oregonians. Economic studies have shown that a nominal increase in the TLT DOES NOT diminish tourism/visitation rates, and along with no sales tax, Oregon is one of the least expensive states to visit. This is a Win-Win for Oregon!

This House Bill benefits people and wildlife across all of Oregon. With that said, HB 4134-1, has broad support from all walks of life such as; the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Oregon Farm Bureau, and League of Women Voters, to name a few! The opportunity to pass 1.25% for Wildlife is now, and I ask and urge you to support HB4134-1 and help get this passed in the 2026 short session. Wildlife, fish, and their habitats would appreciate it!

Please vote to make this happen.