

Submitter:

Sue Cole

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Dear House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Sue Cole and I live in beautiful Eugene, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 with the 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, and our state's identity is closely tied to its rich natural heritage, including native fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. Oregonians' love for the outdoors is known throughout this country and beyond. Oregonians like me are proud of our natural heritage and want to see it thrive for future generations.

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.

Some of the best memories of my life are getting to see wild animals on the hundreds of miles of trails near rivers and lakes and in forests and deserts where I've hiked over 60 years. That privilege should be afforded all who care to seek it, but those wild things MUST be protected from exploitation. Please pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Sue