

Submitter:

Jessica Diaz Wilder

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

I am Mrs Jessica Diaz Wilder and I live in Albany, 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.

in my 10 years living in Oregon, I have come to appreciate just how unique and wonderful Oregon's natural landscape is, from unique fish species to its glorious yet few remaining stands of old growth forest. As a biologist carving out her career in conservation, I am even more pressed to advocate for any measure that will save out precious and delicate ecosystems, and all the creatures housed therein. With all the pressures our wildlife and natural resources feel in our modern world, every measure to contribute to its conservation and, hopefully, future opportunity to thrive again is vitally important, and these opportunities must be taken for our and future Oregonians' sakes.

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!