

Submitter: Fran Recht

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue,

My name is Fran Recht from Depoe Bay, Oregon.

I fully support 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 known and loved not only by its residents, but by its visitors, for its biodiversity-- of native fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. However funding for non-game wildlife and conservation of their habitats has been lacking. If we want to assure that our natural heritage persists and thrives for future generations, including for tourists that come to Oregon for its beauty and diversity, we need to provide dedicated funding for this. Through this HB 4134 we can secure a long-term dedicated funding to recover and sustain our most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Oregon's outdoor tourism economy supports many jobs and brings in billions in consumer spending, much of which depends on having healthy environments and species. I just reflect on how many tourists come to Depoe Bay to bird and whale watch to know of its importance for our town and its future. We need funds to assure non-game species such as these sensitive whales and birds and their habitats and many like them, can survive.

This funding at the state level is even more important now when there are cutbacks in federal funding for wildlife and habitat conservation.

Please pass HB 4134 -1 this legislative session!

Sincerely,

Fran Recht