

Submitter:

Don Kuhns

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

One of the primary reasons our family are 27 year residents of Oregon is its relatively healthy and varied ecosystems. But as we all know the increasing pressures from population growth and climate change are degrading these valuable and precious habitats.

Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife lacks stable funding for non-game species, so its ability to put resources into protecting habitats that non-game species depend are limited. HB4134 changes this funding shortfall. 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. HB 4134 strengthens our tourism and outdoor economy, without raising costs for residents.

Communities in Oregon, especially our rural communities, rely on thriving, healthy environments that support our native wildlife. HB 4134 would be a significant boost to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's ability to conserve and restore the habitat these species rely upon our.

HB 4134 would be an investment in supporting Oregonians' livelihoods, outdoor recreation, and quality of life.