

Submitter:

Debbie Spresser

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

My name is Debbie Spresser. I retired in 2013 and relocated from Eugene to Bend in 2013 after a career as an environmental professional. I am writing to you 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's diverse habitats and flora and fauna are central to what sets Oregon apart and why people want to live, visit and recreate here.

HB 4134 would secure sustainable funding to recover Oregon's most at-risk species and habitats, including sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient landscapes that support biodiversity statewide. Protecting and preserving fish, wildlife species and habitats is foundational to Oregon's economic vitality as our outdoor recreation and tourism economy depends on a rich, diverse, healthy ecosystem.

Federal funding and protections for wildlife and habitats are being reduced and/or eliminated, making it vital for Oregon to step up now to help protect biodiversity, support wildlife stewardship and sustain healthy ecosystems.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration. As a volunteer with the Oregon Bee Atlas I travel the state extensively helping to document Oregon's amazing variety of native bees (over 800 different species and counting). This state and its abundant and varied natural resources are amazing. Please support this bill and help preserve what is precious to us all.