

Submitter:

Wade Nogy

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

I am in strong support of HB 4134. I purchased a home and relocated to Oregon last year specifically because of the natural beauty and wildlife.

While they are a wonderful benefit to residents, our natural places and wildlife within them ARE also a tourist attraction, so helping fund the protection of wildlife and their habitats is a benefit to our tourist industry. One example, I took a multi-day rafting trip on the Deschutes last year and the single biggest thing my fellow rafters spoke about was the array of bird life, ospreys in particular, along the journey. And all the rafting guides were knowledgeable about wildlife as they know it enhances their customer's experience. Currently wildlife protection is largely funded by hunters/anglers and rightfully the money they contribute through licenses mainly goes to game species management. But as the osprey example shows, there are many types of wildlife whose protection will benefit Oregonians and tourists alike. Other examples can be found from one end of the state (pronghorn and sage grouse) to the other (puffins along the coast).

Wildlife presence supports jobs in the \$16B outdoor recreation industry, enhances outdoor lifestyles for Oregonians (examples include hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and photography) and contributes to healthier ecosystems that benefit residents through cleaner water, wildfire mitigation, and erosion reduction.

HB 4134 benefits all Oregonians, including the tourist industry. Out of state visitors, who mainly would pay this tax, come in and enjoy our natural places (and put wear and tear on them) but do little to fund protection. The modest fees incurred by primarily out of state residents will not have any significant impact on tourism. The difference between a \$200 hotel bill and \$202.50 hotel bill is not going to discourage visitation yet can greatly improve our state.

HB 4134 will make Oregon a model for the intersection of adequate wildlife funding to enhance the lives of residents that simultaneously increases the array of experiences for visitors.