

Submitter:

Megan Breen

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

My name is Megan and I live in beautiful Tigard, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

Oregon is an incredibly special place, and our state's identity is closely tied to its rich natural heritage, including native fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. I spend my summers on the rivers, and my winters wandering Fanno Creek trail and other beautiful areas. A large part of what made me choose to settle here was the richness of the wildlife - seeing beavers, owls, herons, and other wildlife right in my backyard. My friends and family who visit here always comment on the beauty of the area and its abundance.

In order to preserve the things that make our home great, it is critical to pass HB 4134. Securing long-term dedicated funding to recover our most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats will ensure the future of these populations and the continued beauty of our home. This is especially necessary because Oregon cannot have a thriving outdoor 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.

Please pass HB 4134 this legislative session!