

Submitter:

Irene Hess

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Chair Nathanson and members of the House Committee on Revenue:

My name is Irene Hess. I am a mother, wildlife documentary filmmaker, and a taxpayer. I live in Portland, Oregon. I strongly 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.

In Portland, just blocks from our home I can see herons, egrets, otters, crows, and beavers living in or near the Willamette River. I have been able to make short films about Oregon's wildlife in my own backyard, so to speak. Oregon's identity is closely tied to our state's rich natural heritage, whether that's wildlife, our forests, and rivers.

Securing long-term dedicated funding to recover our most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats, is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. I urge you to support this landmark bill, which would dedicate long-term funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife and habitats - all of which are critical for our state's tourism economy. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy — 2.6% of the state's GDP — supports 192,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in these resources now will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities in the future.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect our natural legacy and rich biodiversity, which make this state so special. Please pass HB 4134 -1 this legislative session!

With gratitude,

Irene Hess