

Submitter: Leslie Bliss-Ketchum

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

HB 4134 (increases the state transient lodging tax) will provide critical funds in support of natural resources of Oregon that are otherwise critically underfunded. Invasive species are costly and burdensome to agriculture, nurseries, and so many industries in our state. In order to prevent disastrous consequences, we have to invest in prevention and monitoring and support these efforts now to manage invasives that are here, and take all the steps possible to prevent new invasives from reaching Oregon. Habitat connectivity for wildlife and the prevention of wildlife-vehicle collisions are a universally recognized issue that we can all find a reason to support. No one wants to hit an animal on the highway and risk our own safety, and most want these animals to have the opportunity to continue to thrive into the future. Without investment in wildlife crossing structures and other initiatives, we will fall far short of these goals. The increase is modest, I do not believe it will deter individuals from coming to our state, and the needs are great. Please, support HB 4134, and give the ecosystems of Oregon the support they desperately need.