

Submitter: Anna Neufeld
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 Anna Neufeld and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong

support of 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.

I dedicate my professional life to our wild neighbors. As a wildlife rehabilitator and an education zookeeper, I believe that passing this bill will greatly benefit our human-wildlife coexistence. Securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitats protection, is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. Apart from my personal interest in helping wild habitats, the funding would also support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 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.

We cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. Wildlife are the canary in a coal mine, and we must work to protect their resources as they are our resources as well. 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, one that I would feel honored to be a part of.

Please support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134 today.

Thank you, Anna Neufeld