

Submitter: Mark Madsen
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I've lived in several places across the state and the reason I've stayed here is because of the protected natural spaces and outdoors. This is part of the defining identity of the Pacific Northwest and one I value.

I have created and been involved with industry conferences and events that have brought many people to Oregon for the first time. One of the attractions was being able to stay longer and enjoy the outdoors, and the areas that have been preserved. It is not just tourism that benefits, but other industries as well. Protecting our natural spaces creates an incentive for people to work and live here. My company was started here, and I'm in the process of starting another Oregon-based high-tech business.

One of the problems with Oregon is that the lack of a sales tax means tourists don't contribute to the natural spaces and the infrastructure they use. Roads, bridges, parks, trails, all cost money that Oregon residents must bear. I am worried about the loss of federal funding and protections, and this bill would help to fill that gap