

Submitter:

Michael Beaty

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB4134

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this historic legislation that benefits both Oregon wildlife and tourism industries.

I write as a Baker County resident of forty four years, having purchased land and built a home near Halfway, locating here from Boise, Idaho for the splendors of the Wallowa Mountains and Hells Canyon with their rich diversity of plants, animals, and fungus. I join the many members of my local community here in Northeast Oregon who support HB 4134, also known as "1.25% for Wildlife", for its benefits to our state's rich biological and natural diversity; HB 4134 also strengthens our tourism economy that depends on a healthy environment.

As a local example of how Nature attracts and rewards visitors, since 2013 our community has hosted Pinefest, an annual music festival. Patrons, musicians, and vendors come from near and far to enjoy a weekend of live music and each other's company in our scenic setting. Throughout the festival I hear people giving thanks and praises for the surrounding forests, mountains, and rivers. Our natural wonders are a big part of why they come. Many of our festival goers add other recreational activities to their stays here, e.g. camping, boating, fishing, biking, and hiking. We even have an annual cadre of hikers who cross the Wallowas from Joseph to join the fun.

In sum, Pinefest offers Nature by day and Music by night; as does Portland, where I often travel and would gladly pay a few dollars a night for my lodging and contribute to protecting and improving Oregon's Natural Heritage while enjoying the best music scene on the West Coast.

Thank you.