

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Werner Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters, and Members of the House Committee on Revenue:

Please vote YES for HB 4134 – 1.25% For Wildlife

As the owner of a small B&B business, I am truly amazed at the number of disingenuous testimonies opposing this bill, testimonies by hotel and lodge owners who insist that an additional \$1.25 per \$100 of a hotel bill is going to keep travelers away. I'm sorry, but it's ludicrous. The idea that someone who visits Eugene and pays hundreds of dollars to attend a major track and field event is going to quibble over an amount that is probably less than the tip they will leave for the server after drinks at the hotel lobby is absurd. Or someone who travels to Portland for the theater or symphony? Also absurd.

On a smaller scale, my guests pay about \$100 per night in my modest B&B. They come to hike or bike or just visit the Columbia River Gorge. They come to enjoy the eagles nesting for the past seven years in my backyard or the beavers building dams in the creek our property overlooks. They come to relax and explore and appreciate what Oregon has to offer. And while I haven't done any sort of survey of past guests, I can be pretty certain that not a single one of them would have decided NOT come had the price of the room been \$1.25 more per night. To suggest that Oregon's hotel and lodge industry is going to suffer for this minor increase is just not believable.

On the other hand, without this minor increase, Oregon's wildlife WILL continue to suffer and decline. Years of underfunding our natural resource agencies has taken a toll, as have the destructive decisions of the Trump Administration to undo protections that have been decades in the making. This should not even be a close choice – yet here we are. Please make the right choice for Oregon's future. Protect one of our greatest resources – our wildlife - by adding a very small fee to those who can afford the luxury of travel in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ferrer
The Dalles