

Submitter:

Les Tumidaj

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 Les Tumidaj and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in 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. Please excuse my delayed submittal but I understand I can submit testimony until Feb 6th.

I have been privileged to be resident of the beautiful state of Oregon for over 40 years of my life. Aside from enjoying our State's natural wonders for all those years and volunteering to protect them, I've taken particular delight in sharing our natural wonders with friends, family, fellow Americans and even foreign guests. All, as you might imagine, have been delighted by our varied, natural landscapes but to a person their hearts light up when they have that special encounter with wildlife. Whether its migrating birds or those wacky oystercatchers on the coast, or bighorn sheep in our eastern mountains and canyons, or the eagles that have delighted my nieces and nephews within Portland's own boundaries.

From personal experience, I greatly admire the work of our State parks and wildlife professionals, and the thousands of dedicated volunteers, to protect our state's natural heritage, but we need serious resources to support that work. And I believe this bill will go a long way to provide that. The nurturing and preservation of our precious wildlife is a sacred trust we've Oregonians have taken upon ourselves, and we must match resources to the challenges, including a federal government that is abrogating its responsibilities. So please support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134.

Thank you,

Les Tumidaj