

Submitter: John Meihoff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

As lifelong Oregonian who enjoys the outdoors as one of the main reasons why we choose to live here, I am writing to ask your support for HB 4134 - "1.25% for Wildlife."

This bill makes so much sense for so many reasons. That's why it has bipartisan support from hunters, fishing enthusiasts and outdoor advocates alike. It secures dedicated, sustainable funding to Oregon's threatened wildlife, lands and waters by increasing the state transient lodging tax by a very small sum, mostly paid by out-of-state visitors. Even this increase makes Oregon's transient lodging tax among the lowest in all 50 states, so the argument that this tiny increase may keep visitors away is complete nonsense.

Hotel, restaurant and lodging owners and workers will benefit greatly if you pass this bill, given Oregon's economy is heavily dependent on our natural landscapes, native wildlife and the outdoor industry. HB 4134 is a proactive solution that will directly help at-risk species, vulnerable habitats and support rural communities that depend on them. Right now, Oregon is currently failing to invest in the recovery of at-risk species and habitats, many of which are significant drivers of tourism and critical to the state's economy. HB 4134 represents a wise investment in not only our present and future natural resources—all while making Oregon a more attractive place for residents and visitors alike.

Please do the right thing: support HB 4134 and vote yes for 1.25% for wildlife