

Submitter: Tyler Kujala  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Broadman and members of the Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue,

My name is Tyler Kujala and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

In my view, conserving Oregon's natural beauty and the wildlife that calls the state home will only help to increase the amount of money brought in by tourists, as these are the things that Oregon is most known for (which is something to be very proud of, and I believe most Oregonians are), and these are the things that people come here to see. Investing as much as we can into our values of conservation and stewardship will show how seriously we take these things, which will inevitably draw visitors. Oregon is known around the country for these very positive elements of our state, I believe we should do everything we can to keep it that way.

The benefits this bill would bring far outweigh the costs. As humans have shown, time and time again, we have the power to decimate and destroy wildlife populations and natural areas. What this also means, however, is that we have the power to help, too. The conservation, biology, and related fields have grown and continue to grow over the years, and combining the increased knowledge that comes with this growth with the aforementioned power to help rather than harm gives us what we need to make real, positive change in how we interact with the natural world around us. The next part of this is taking real, actionable steps towards this goal of helping, and that mean investing in the values that have long been core to Oregonians. Passing this bill would be one such step.

Please support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134.

Tyler Kujala