

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 4134.

As a business owner in Oregon, I see every day how deeply our economy is tied to the health of our natural resources. The people who choose to visit, invest, and move here are drawn by one defining feature: extraordinary access to wildlife, clean rivers, forests, open space, and habitat that still feels alive and intact. It is not incidental to our economic vitality. It is central to it.

HB 4134's modest increase to the statewide transient lodging tax, from 1.5 percent to 2.75 percent, represents a thoughtful and appropriate investment in protecting what makes Oregon exceptional. With nearly 300 species at elevated risk of extinction and multiple habitats in urgent need of conservation, this funding is not optional if we intend to pass on a livable, thriving state to the next generation.

My company represents more than 100 independent contractors, 20 employees, and thousands of clients across the region. We rely on a strong, healthy Oregon economy. We also rely on the promise that the Oregon people move here for will endure. Protecting fish, wildlife, and habitat is not only an environmental issue. It is an economic strategy.

I urge you to support HB 4134 and to stand for the long-term stewardship that sustains both our communities and our businesses.

Thank you for your leadership and service.

Sincerely,
Jenelle Etzel
Founder, Living Room Realty