

Submitter: Elizabeth Dix

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

As an Oregon resident and native to the PNW I strongly urge a vote of YES on HB 4134 (1.25% for Wildlife). Oregon's wildlife and our vast and diverse natural landscapes are cornerstones to our identity, economy, and quality of life. Visitors consistently comment they come to our beautiful state and beyond because of our close proximity to nature and all the beauty it brings with it, our mountains, forests, wildlife, rivers, coastlines, and open spaces. This bill is a smart and well constructed bill that provides the state the ability to have stable, long-term funding for wildlife conservation, habitat restoration, anti-poaching enforcement, and practical coexistence solutions, all things that foster the biodiversity that makes the PNW one of the most unique places in the country to visit.

The majority of the 1.25% lodging tax increase included in this bill is set to be paid by out-of-state visitors and will still allow Oregon to remain among the lowest lodging tax states in the country. If you visit any city's visitors website you will often find that Oregon's natural beauty is prominently featured and even highlighted as a "must see" or close to our major cities. Oregon's landscapes and close proximity to various natural activities is what predominately drives our visitor economy and this bill help solidify the protections needed now and in the future to continue this key visitor revenue stream and show Oregonian's that revenue attainment and protections do not have to be at odds but can come together to ensure a beautiful future.

Thank you for your consideration,
Elizabeth