

Submitter: Katie McKenzie

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Please support the wildlife bill. Much of our tourism is based on nature viewing and experiences. The tax in Oregon is remarkably low for tourism taxes. We have successfully advertised and gotten tourists. So many in fact where I live (Oregon coast)we really can't support the numbers.

However, many people come to view whales, go birding, hunt and especially fish. We need funds to protect and manage wildlife and their habitats. There are no funds established to protect or enhance wildlife other than small amounts for hunting and sports fishing. There is a huge need for stable and distinct funding.

Again, this is a no brainer . People visit for our views, wildlife and experiences in Oregon. We have a very low tourism tax. A small increase is probably not even noticeable to most tourists or would be supported by them.

As a biologist I can testify that funds are needed to protect and support our wildlife. Even for some things like traffic corridors and other logical protections. Having healthy intact wildlife and their habitats will certainly attract many many tourists. Look at Depoe bay which is now practically funded by whale watching excursions.

Please do the right thing for Oregonians and our visitors and pass this very modest proposal! It is incredibly important!