

Submitter: Ivy Hover

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Senators, thank you for your attention to this important matter.

I strongly support HB 4134 (aka 1.25% for Wildlife) as it would create a long-term, dedicated funding source to protect Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and their habitats. By raising the statewide lodging tax (TLT) by 1.25%, from 1.5% to 2.75%, the bill ensures that visitors who are enjoying Oregon's natural beauty are also investing in its future. The funds raised by the tax will go directly to imperiled fish, wildlife, and habitat recovery efforts. With nearly 300 species at an elevated risk of extinction and 11 habitats of greatest conservation need, these additional investments would be life-saving. More than 60% of lodging tax revenue comes from out-of-state visitors, and even with the proposed 1.25% increase, Oregon would remain the third-lowest taxed state in the country.