

Submitter: Lynn Herring

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,

I urge your support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and bring in revenue to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

The Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) does not receive any dedicated funds from the state for the recovery and conservation of species and habitats. A small 1.25% increase in Oregon's statewide lodging tax would provide a sustainable source of funds to ODFW to recover Oregon's most imperiled species and habitats and enhance biodiversity.

If passed, more specifically this legislation would:

- Provide ~\$25 million annually to protect and improve Oregon's species and habitats of greatest conservation needs
- Create a wildlife stewardship program to educate the public on wildlife interactions, resolving wildlife conflicts, and establishing a grant program to support Oregon's wildlife rehabilitation centers which serve on the front lines of human-wildlife interactions
- Bolster anti-poaching and invasive species management across the state
- Provide needed funds into the Oregon Conservation and Recreation fund for wildlife conservation
- Support wildfire prevention.

This legislation would not only benefit wildlife and habitats but support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism spending that brings in \$16 billion and supports nearly 200,000 jobs.

Do pass HB 4134, "1.25% for Wildlife" to benefit all of us in our great state of Oregon.

In Stewardship,

Lynn Herring