

Submitter: Justin Santiago

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Boardman and members of the Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue,

My name is Justin Santiago of Wilsonville, Oregon. I am submitting my testimony in support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25%, aiding Oregon's natural landscape and the animals within.

Ensuring long-term funding for wildlife/habitat protection is a common thread held between Oregonians across the state. Since we live upon this landscape and depend upon its natural resources, we also benefit from its natural products. Natural landscapes benefit our communities and local businesses through tourism dollars, recreation, fisheries, and more. Tourism alone supports approximately 200,000 jobs translating to \$16 billion towards consumer spending. Providing funding and protective measures towards these resources strengthens future Oregonian economic opportunities, in addition.

All of the benefits that an ecosystem can offer is not possible without long-term funding commitments to ensure there is enough capacity to achieve economic, conservation, and community goals. HB 4134 would allow us to have this level of economic and conservation security against a time where such benefits have been federally cut and the policies set to protect fragile habitats and species have been dismantled. This is Oregon's time to establish leadership by setting a precedent towards protecting the state's natural heritage.

Please support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134 today.

Justin Santiago