

Submitter: Jeff Stephens

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Jeff Stephens and I live in Bend. I'm writing in strong support of HB 4134 with the -1 amendment to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats. Before moving here in 2021, I spent 10 years visiting the state and appreciating its natural beauty and wildlife. At that time, I would have been HAPPY to pay the additional 1.25% because I valued Oregon's natural amenities. Now that I live here, I travel to other parts of the state to visit natural areas and am HAPPY to pay the additional 1.25% lodging tax.

Now that I live in Oregon, I volunteer regularly with the Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife to conduct wildlife surveys of Sierra Nevada red fox, pikas, and porcupines. The agency needs secure sustainable funding to recover Oregon's most at-risk species and habitats, including sagebrush ecosystems, connected wildlife corridors, and resilient landscapes that support biodiversity statewide. It's a team effort between Oregon legislators, agency staffers, citizen scientists, and state visitors to support Oregon's wildlife.

Please pass this bill.