

Submitter: Mark McNeil

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to let you know that I SUPPORT HB 4134 that is before the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue. The bill calls for an increase in the transient lodging tax; a revenue source that will primarily be stable and paid for by tourists who visit our beautiful state. This bill protects our wildlife, our fish, and our environment. Furthermore, here in Oregon we have over 300 vulnerable species who require intervention to survive and thrive. HB 4134 invests in restoring and conserving the habitats these species rely on.

I'm certain there are folks who will say "ODFW takes care of that", but they don't have stable or sufficient funding resources to do so. As a 74 year old sportsman, outdoorsman, and farmer who has supported game and fish and wildlife my entire life, I believe that passing HB 4134 could be the beginning of a watershed moment for Oregon and it's wildlife and natural beauty. In addition, it is critical we remember that Outdoor recreation is big business in Oregon. The last estimate I recall listed it as in excess of \$16 billion dollars annually. You know why the tourists come. They come for our flora, fauna and natural beauty. I want it ALL to be here for future generations of Oregonians and YOU SHOULD TOO.

Please vote in favor of HB 4134, I sincerely believe it is the right thing to do.

Mark McNeil