

Submitter: Rachelle Hacmac  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Chair Broadman and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

My name is Rachelle Hacmac and I live in Milwaukie, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable wildlife and habitats.

Oregon is an extraordinary place, and our identity is inseparable from our rivers, forests, coastline, and the native fish and wildlife that define them. The landscapes that shape our communities are also what draw people here from around the world. As someone who works in coastal tourism, I see every day how deeply our economy depends on healthy ecosystems and thriving habitats.

Oregonians consistently show strong support for long term, dedicated funding to recover vulnerable fish, wildlife, and the habitats that sustain them. That support is well founded. Outdoor recreation and tourism in Oregon support more than 190,000 jobs and generate roughly 16 billion dollars in annual consumer spending. On the coast, abundant wildlife, clean water, and resilient natural systems are not abstract ideals. They are the foundation of local businesses, working waterfronts, guiding services, hospitality jobs, and the communities I collaborate with professionally.

A strong tourism economy is only possible when our natural resources are healthy and abundant. This legislation recognizes that connection and invests in both ecological recovery and economic resilience. At a time when federal protections and funding are being reduced, Oregon has the opportunity to lead. By securing dedicated funding for fish, wildlife, and habitat recovery, we are investing in our state's long term prosperity.

This is a rare opportunity to protect the natural heritage that defines Oregon and sustains our coastal and rural communities. I urge a YES vote on HB 4134.

Sincerely,  
Rachelle Hacmac