

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

*My name is Donna Acord and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.*

*I was born in Oregon and have lived here nearly all of my life, in Astoria, Roseburg, Tillamook and now in Portland. I have always appreciated the many benefits which I took for granted growing up - being able to fish, ride trails on my horse, backpack, climb our mountains and find solace in the quiet of forests, meadows, rivers and the ocean shores. As an adult I have had the satisfaction of introducing children to the wonders of our wild areas through volunteer work such as Outdoor School. I have also introduced many adults to the beautiful landscapes and the amazing life within them, through volunteering with a number of organizations in our Oregon State Parks, Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area and Cape Falcon Marine Reserves and Protected Areas, and several of The Nature Conservancy's sites.*

*As a volunteer in those wild places, I have met a lot of visitors to Oregon who express how much they value the beauty and vibrancy of our landscapes, and enjoy the many forms of outdoor recreation available here. My friends and family who live there appreciate how important these visitors are and how vital this bill is to support and maintain the local economies who are dependent on that tourism.*

*Securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitats protection is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. The funding would not only help wildlife and habitats, but also support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in these resources now will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities in the future.*

*We cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy and abundant fish, wildlife, and the habitats that support them. This legislation would ensure we have both. At a time when the federal government is slashing funds and dismantling policies that protect our vulnerable fish and wildlife and their habitats, Oregon has a chance to set an example and protect our natural heritage. Doing so would make Oregon a national leader.*

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

*Donna J Acord*