

Submitter: Kathryn Comer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

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

As a long-time and loyal Portlander, 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.

This bill is an essential step in offsetting the increasing environmental damage being wrought by the federal administration; the state needs to step up to save the resources that make Oregon so special. Securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitats protection is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians, because these funds will benefit local communities and small businesses as well as wildlife and their habitats. Oregon's 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. Oregon has a chance to become a national leader, setting an example for others while protecting our PNWonderland.

Please support "1.25% for Wildlife" by passing HB 4134. Thank you!