

Submitter: Becky Orf

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I urge you to support HB 4134, which would increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to protect Oregon's endangered lands, waters, and wildlife as well as our outdoor economy that depends on those resources. Even with this increase, HB 4134 would continue to keep Oregon's state lodging tax among the very lowest in the nation.

As a longtime Oregonian, I treasure our beautiful outdoors and the wildlife that makes it so special. However, these are threatened due to decades of underinvestment. Our state has more than 300 species that face extinction due to threats like habitat loss, pollution, and invasive species. I have also felt the danger to our way of lives by the threat of wildfires, and HB 4134 would support jobs with the Oregon Conservation Corps to train a skilled workforce to reduce the risk of wildfires.

HB 4134 would provide badly needed resources to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in order to implement the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), which includes strategies and actions to preserve and restore natural resources across the state. In addition, the bill dedicates resources to anti-poaching efforts, wildlife connectivity, wildlife rehabilitation centers, and invasive species prevention. HB 4134 also includes stable funding for Oregon's wolf management compensation and proactive trust fund, which aims to improve coexistence and outcomes for both farmers/ranchers and wolves. Further, the bill will support wildfire risk reduction and natural resource workforce development, increasing resilience for both wildlife and communities across the state.

I urge you to support the preservation of Oregon's unique outdoors and wildlife, while also supporting the tourism, recreation, and agricultural sectors of our economy. Please support and vote yes on HB 4134.