

Submitter: Denise Bertetto
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 Denise Bertetto and I live in Portland, 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 incredibly special place, and our state's identity is deeply tied to its rich natural heritage, including native fish, wildlife, and the habitats that sustain them. Oregonian's love for the outdoors is known across the country and beyond. Oregonians like me are proud of this legacy and want to see it thrive for future generations.

Securing long-term dedicated funding to recover vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians and is critical for our state's tourism economy. Oregon's outdoor tourism sector supports 192,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in these resources now will both sustain and grow economic opportunity for communities across our state.

We cannot have a thriving tourism economy without healthy, abundant wildlife, and habitats. This legislation helps ensure both. At a time when the federal government is slashing funds and dismantling policies that protect our wildlife and natural spaces, Oregon must step up. We have a chance to be a national leader and set an example by protecting our natural heritage.

This is a once-in-a generation opportunity to safeguard our natural legacy and the rich biodiversity that make Oregon so special. Please vote YES on HB 4134!

Sincerely,
Denise Bertetto