

Submitter: Lorraine Murray

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Chair Broadman and Senate Committee on Revenue members:

Today I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 4134.

Increasing the state lodging tax by 1.25% to help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats is the right, and the most "Oregonian" thing to do.

As Oregonians, we closely identify with the incredible wonders of our state and our the unparalleled array of wildlife we have here. This is a special place, one we are proud to be from, and when we describe our state to friends and family across the country, we tell about the glossy black bear we saw run across the road while driving to pick blueberries (that was last July!), our steelhead and salmon, the sea life to be explored along our tidal pools, or the stark beauty of our sagebrush steppe and the wildlife that thrive there.

Oregonians' love for the outdoors is well-known statewide and nationwide and securing long-term dedicated funding to recover our most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats, is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians.

I also want to urge you to support this landmark bill, which would dedicate long-term funding to recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats, because this is critical for our state's tourism economy, which supports 192,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending.

Our thriving outdoor tourism economy would suffer without healthy and abundant fish and wildlife populations. Investing in wildlife and habitat conservation projects will generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities now, and well in the future.

This bill is your once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect the rich biodiversity that makes Oregon an incredible place to live and to visit.

Please pass this important legislation this session. Wildlife make our state a glorious place to live. Let's give them the support they need, today.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Murray
Powell Butte, OR