

Submitter: Mark Scantlebury
On Behalf Of: Self
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 Mark Scantlebury and I have lived in Oregon since 1977. 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. Since I first moved here from Virginia, there has been a steady loss of habitat and vitality in our wildlife populations. Now is the time to raise some sustainable funding to correct that.

Securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitats protection is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. This funding would not only help wildlife and habitats, but also help local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. I know because I travel a lot around this state and spend money in both large and small towns surrounded by natural areas, such as state and federal forests and desertlands. 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. What's more, it will help maintain our reputation as a state that values nature and wildlife.

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.

Sincerely,
Mark Scantlebury