

Submitter: Christine Psyk

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue, Oregon needs dedicated investment in natural resource management and conservation and HB 4134 can provide that investment through a nominal tax on tourism. The outdoor recreation industry currently contributes 2.6% to the State's GDP and it's growing. It will be hard to sustain this growth without investing in natural resources to prevent their decline. Let's be honest, it's Oregon's natural resources that draw tourists. We don't have the Louvre or the Metropolitan Museum, but what we have is nature in all its glory. If those natural resources are diminished and tourists no longer can be assured to see wildlife in wild places, they will go elsewhere.

The reality is that wildlife species in Oregon are in decline for many reasons, but one of the main one's is habitat loss and degradation. Species such as whales which are a big draw to our coastal waters, salmon which draw a lot of fishermen to our coast and rivers, and tufted puffins, among many other birds, which draw birders are simply not doing well. There has been no dedicated funding for Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan which is the vehicle that should be used to recover imperiled species. HB 4134 could give the state the fuel to make the action plan work.

Make this happen; pass this legislation.

Thank you, Christine Psyk