

Submitter: Krista Reynolds

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Dear Senate Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 4134, and I hope you will champion this bill. The bill is historic legislation that would protect our wildlife, safeguard communities, and strengthen our tourism economy that depends on a healthy environment, without increasing my cost of living.

This legislation protects wildlife and human health. The health of people and our environment is inextricably linked. Keeping nature healthy keeps people healthy. Projects funded by this legislation will help protect and clean drinking water, support wild pollinators that are essential to our food and natural systems, and maintain species like bats that help control insect populations. These investments aren't just an investment in our environment; they're an investment in community health.

Oregon has a list of over 300 vulnerable species that require intervention. HB 4134 invests in conserving and restoring the habitat these species rely upon, while also supporting Oregonians' livelihoods, outdoor recreation, and quality of life. Communities in Oregon, especially our rural communities, rely on thriving, healthy environments that support our native wildlife.

As an Oregon resident and frequent traveler across the state, I would gladly pay a few dollars more on my hotel bill to protect Oregon's natural legacy. However, because HB 4134 is funded by an increase in the transient lodging tax, a majority of the funding will not come from Oregon residents. Outdoor recreation is a \$16 billion industry in Oregon. We can keep that industry growing and thriving by investing in the wildlife and natural spaces that attract visitors, all while still keeping Oregon's statewide lodging tax one of the lowest in the nation.

Thank you!