

Submitter: Cathy Tortorici

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chairman Broadman, Vice-Chairman McLane, and Senator Pham:

My name is Cathy Tortorici and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 4134 to increase state lodging tax by 1.25% to help recover our state's most imperiled fish, wildlife, and the habitats in which they live. I worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service for 10 years in Portland and understand the importance and need to protect our natural resources for future generations. Passing and enacting HB 4134 provides funding to conserve our state's natural resources, which in turn supports our state's tourism economy (i.e., 2.6% of the state's GDP – including 192,000 jobs and \$16 billion in consumer spending).

At a time when the federal government is slashing funds and dismantling regulations and polices that protect imperiled fish and wildlife and their habitats, Oregon should model how to conserve its natural resources in a manner that demonstrates that supporting environmental conservation and economic development is smart policy.

I am counting on you to pass HB 4134 in this legislative session to demonstrate to Oregon and the country that environmental conservation still matters.

Please let me know how I can help –

Cathy Tortorici