

Submitter: Susan Martin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Chair Broadman and members of the Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue,

My name is Susan Martin and I live in Milwaukie, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover the over 300 of Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and the habitats they need to survive and hopefully thrive.

HB 4134 provides, for the first time ever, stable and secure long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitat preservation, protection and enhancement. I believe this bill is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians as this bill benefits Oregonians. Tourist come to Oregon to see our natural beauty and the wildlife we have. The funding from this bill would enhance wildlife habitats and increase our native wildlife which would bring even more tourist to our state. Increased tourism provides increased economic support to local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Currently Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. We need a viable income source to protect and enhance Oregon's natural resources so that tourism dollars will continue to generate income and economic opportunities for Oregon communities now, and in the future.

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.

Thank you,
Susan Martin
A native Oregonian