

Submitter: Ada Ritter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

My name is Ada Ritter, a home owner in Bend. I am writing to express my support of HB4134 "1.25% for Wildlife" bill. As I understand it, this bill would increase the lodging tax by 1.25% which would be used to support Oregon wildlife.

Oregon's identity as a destination for fish, wildlife and most anything outdoors is what drew my family from California to this magnificent state of Oregon. I want to see this natural beauty maintained and preserved for future generations. I believe our human duty is to clean up after ourselves and conserve (or improve) the natural resources we are blessed to live within. Our wildlife do not get to choose where to live (except if/when they migrate); they have to survive in the environment they are born into. We humans have invaded their space and we must take responsibility for keeping it as pure and natural as when we arrived so long ago.

Oregon's rivers are especially meaningful to me, not just for their beauty, but I feel a spiritual connection to them which elevates my soul whenever I hike along the banks. For so many reasons Oregon needs to be proactive in our conservation efforts. And 1.25% is a small price to pay for access to Oregon's abundance of natural resources and wildlife.