

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

RE: HB 4134 - SUPPORT

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am writing to urge you to pass HB 4134 and increase the state transient lodging tax.

Our state is renowned for its beauty and its wildlife. That is a big driver for the billions of dollars that tourism brings to our state, creating jobs and a big boost to consumer spending. The wildlife that helps draw those visitors in is severely threatened by climate change, habitat loss and fragmentation, and invasive species.

The programs in place to alleviate that have been underfunded. HB 4134-1 would help remedy that. Increasing the state tourism tax by 1% would be a nearly imperceptible change to individual tourists, but will have an outsized impact on our wildlife. It's a brilliant way to create specific and sustained funding to help conserve key habitats and and recover our states faltering wildlife species.

Please say yes and support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,
Susan Mates