

Submitter: Dale Crawford

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

Honorable Senators,

I am writing you today to convey strong support for HB 4134, to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% to aid in the restoration and recovery of Oregon's most vulnerable wildlife, fish and habitats.

My wife and I moved to Portland a dozen years ago after considering numerous other cities in the West. We choose Oregon, in part, due to its extensive public lands and open spaces, something drastically lacking in Kansas, where we moved from.

As we traveled around Oregon since our move, we realized how fragile and degraded much of the state's natural regions are. Consequently, we have become involved in organizations working to restore and rehabilitate streams and waterways in the High Desert region and the Portland area. HB 4134 would provide desperately needed, long term funding for these non-profit organizations and other agencies undertaking valuable conservation efforts to restore and rehabilitate habitats and ecosystems that support our state's wildlife and fish populations.

The State of Oregon's leadership is critically important, particular at this time, when federal funding for such efforts is being cut and eliminated almost daily. Oregon has a strong tourism economy that, in large part, is centered on its natural attractions. HB 4134, will insure we can do more to protect, conserve and rehabilitate these natural assets and maintain a vibrant tourism industry. It's past time for Oregon to step up and lead by example when comes to protecting the natural diversity it is known for.

Thank you again for you support of HB 4134 and your continued commitment to improving the lives of all Oregon residents and the environment we all depend on.