

Submitter: Tracy Maxwell
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 Tracy Maxwell and I live in Roseburg, Oregon. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 4134 to increase the state lodging tax by 1.25% and help recover Oregon's most vulnerable fish, wildlife, and habitats.

I am a member of the Audubon Society and a teacher. I teach children about the wonderful world of birds. I am distressed with the plight of all bird species and am acutely aware of the diminishing numbers of bird species as they return from migration each year. If we do not do as much as we can RIGHT NOW to create more intact habitats and take steps to create better urban landscapes for all of the bird species we are going to continue down this terrible curve of species loss. Think of birds as canaries in the coal mines in this situation and you can well see that we are connected and we must answer the call when another species is in peril.

Securing long-term dedicated funding for wildlife and habitats protection is strongly supported by a majority of Oregonians. The funding would not only help wildlife and habitats, but also support local communities and businesses that rely on tourism dollars. Oregon's robust outdoor tourism economy supports nearly 200,000 jobs and brings in \$16 billion in consumer spending. Investing in these resources now will continue to generate more economic opportunities for Oregon's communities 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.

Tracy Maxwell