

Submitter: Lauren Hobson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4134

I am writing to strongly support HB 4134 as both a fourth-generation Oregonian and an avid traveler across our state. The bill will create stable funding for conservation efforts and the more than 300 species that are in peril. It will protect the habitats and ecosystems that are so important to our state's way of life. The parts I love most about living in Oregon are that I know in my state I can go visit sea lions playing in the surf, watch eagles feasting on salmon, and hike to see Bighorn Sheep --- potentially all in one day! It's the thing I love sharing about Oregon, too, with my out-of-town visitors. To lose any more of our incredible natural resources to under-funded programs would be a travesty, especially when a bill like this (with bipartisan support!) is on the table. I understand the lodging lobby's concern that a tax will be a deterrent but I would argue that the additional tax is so minimal it won't be a deciding factor (it certainly isn't for me when I stay in a hotel, in our state or others). Additionally, I think that using these funds to support our wildlife and conservation efforts is one of the best ways we can continue supporting our tourism industry. So much of Oregon's draw is our wildlife and wild landscapes (just watch a Travel Oregon ad). To not invest in conservation, wildfire prevention, and species protection through a bill like this would be such a disappointment to me. Please, pass bill HB 4134!